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THE PLANTERS' CHRONICLE.

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The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

VOL. III.] FEBRUARY, 1908. [No. 1.

The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

Finance.

The first dividend in the matter of the insolvency of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. has been received. Its amount is Rs.908-12-0, less Rs.2-4-4, Bank exchange on remittance from Madras.

The Planting Member of Council.

Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson has intimated that private affairs have made it necessary for him to go to England early in May next, and that, as he will be away some time, he will have so much to do just before leaving that it will be impossible for him to attend to his duties as Planting Member of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George, as he had hoped to do, to the end of the present session. Mr. Hodgson has resigned, therefore, as from the end of his present term of office, which expires this month.

Councillors have been asked to vote in respect to the nomination of a successor to Mr. Hodgson for appointment by the Government of Madras.

Popularization of Coffee.

In a letter dated London, 3rd January, 1908, Mr. John C. Sanderson writes:—

"Herewith I have the pleasure to hand you copy of a letter received by the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce on the 16th of last month From it you will see that Dr. Ramos is in communication with the Government of S. Paulo on the matter of the popularization of Coffee. He is evidently in favour of our proposed scheme, so doubtless we shall shortly have a further communication from him putting forward the views of his Government. In the meantime this letter will show the East Indian Planters that the question is being thrashed out by the London Committee."

[INCLOSURE].

Copy of letter, dated Antwerp, December, 1907, from Dr. F. Ramos, Commissionaire-General, Government of the State of S. Paulo, to the London Chamber of Commerce.

"I duly received your favour of the 13th January, in reply to which I have great pleasure to inform you that your letter of 17th October last was communicated to the Government of the State of S. Paulo from which I expect an early reply.

"Meanwhile, I may say that your idea is very sympathetic to Government and I personally wish to support indirectly the Associations making propaganda for Coffee and combat falsification.

"Generally the Brazilian States assign a certain amount in their budget destined to that effect. I think if there was already an arrangement made between the producing countries and if they could act in accordance with the Association of Brazilian Coffee Producers this would give the desired result for those making propaganda to increase the consumption of Coffee."

Labour Contracts.

The Government of Madras have invited the opinion of the U. P. A. S. I. as to the suggestion put forward by the Wynaad Planters' Association in the following letter to the Chief Secretary to that Government, on the subject of keeping a record of attestation of Labour Contracts by all attesting officers:—

"I was instructed by my Association to request that the Local Government be asked to issue orders that all Magistrates and persons authorised to attest Labour Contracts keep a record of contracts attested by them.

"This is already done by many Planters, who were authorised to attest contracts, a simple record showing consecutive number of the contracts signed, names of Maistry, the name of the Labourer, his father's name, village, name of estate, period of contract, amount of advance and caste of the Labourer.

"Matter was brought to our notice by case where the thumb-impression on labourers' contract was indistinct, a village menon from Coimbatore District was brought as witness to Wynaad and swore to attesting the contract, the Planter on whose estate labourer is now working is convinced the labourer was on the estate and in Wynaad at the time he is supposed to have been entering into a contract in the Coimbatore District. There are difficulties I understand in proving this and prosecuting the Maistry for fabricating a contract, but if records were kept it should serve as a safeguard against cases of forgery."

Scientific Officer Scheme.

In a letter dated 7th January, 1908, the Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, says:—

"With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter dated 15th November, 1907, on the subject of the employment of a Scientific Officer to work under your Association, I am directed to state that, as the Planting Communities who will be benefited by such an appointment exist not only in the British territories subject to this Government but also in Travancore, Cochin, Mysore and Coorg, the Government consider that the cost of employing the expert, after deducting the contribution promised by your Association, should be borne by the Governments and States concerned, in proportion to the Planting area under each Government or State. The Residents in Travancore, Cochin and Mysore and the Honorable the Chief Commissioner of Coorg are accordingly being addressed in the matter, and I am to state that the Government will await their replies before taking any further action.

"In the meanwhile, I am to state that if an expert is to be engaged as suggested by you, he will probably require a five years'engagement at least, as it must take him some time to master the problems submitted to him and to ask that your Association will undertake to continue its contribution for that period."

The "Planters' Chronicle."

Arrangements have now been made to have this paper and all proceedings, etc., printed by Messrs. Addison & Co., Mount Road, Madras.

Honorary Secretaries of District Planters' Associations are requested to kindly send all MSS. direct to the above firm (so as to prevent delay).

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The Anamallai Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Anamallai Planters' Association held at the Valpari Bungalow.

The following Members were present:—

Messrs. C. R. P. CONGREVE, G. A. MARSH, J. E. SCOTT, E. W. SIMCOCK (in the Chair), J. R. VINCENT, G. L. DUNCAN (*Honorary Secretary*).

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Honorary Secretary presented his Report and Statement of Accounts for 1906-07 which were adopted.

Roads.—It was resolved that the U. P. A. S. I. should be asked to take up the matter of Branch Roads in the District, and the Honorary Secretary was asked to supply all the necessary information in this connection.

Leases.—It was recorded with satisfaction that Government had issued orders to expedite the issue of leases.

Subscription to U. P. A. S I.—It was resolved to support the Central Travancore Association's proposal in the matter of raising subscriptions on a more equitable basis if other District Associations fell into line.

Election of Office bearers.—Mr. C. R. P. Congreve was unanimously elected Honorary Secretary, with Messrs. G. L. Duncan, G. A. Marsh, E. W. Simcock and J R. Vincent as Committee for the ensuing year.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Vincent for his smart capture of Cardamom thieves and for his efforts to bring the receivers to justice.

With votes of thanks to the Chairman and Honorary Secretary, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) GEO. L. DUNCAN,
Honorary Secretary.

(Signed) E. W. SIMCOCK,
Chairman.

Secretary's Report for 1907.

GENTLEMEN,—The past year has not been a very eventful period, and I need not detain you with a lengthy Report, but shall just briefly touch on several of the more important matters in connection with the District.

Remission of Assessment on Lands planted with Rubber.—You will remember that our petition regarding this was before Government this time last year, and it is satisfactory to record that we have now been put on a more even footing with other Districts in this respect by Government having agreed to a remission of assessment for a period of 3 years on lands newly planted with Rubber (*vide* G. O. No. 181, Revenue, dated 28th January, 1907). Our thanks are due to the U. P. A. S. I. for the assistance rendered us in this connection.

Leases.—These have not yet been issued, Government giving as a reason that some of our requests, more specially those regarding making good deficiency of area on original survey, and the modification of clauses referring to removal and disposal of Timber, have tended to delay completion of deeds. Government have also suggested that the existing terms of agreement under which estates are assessed should be modified, and a fixed scale introduced whereby rents would be calculated irrespective of areas annually cleared, thus doing away with the necessity of annual surveys. The proposal is now before the Lessees and it is to be hoped that some such arrangement may be arrived at to suit all those concerned.

Roads and Communications.—You are aware that the question of certain Branch Roads was before Government at the close of last season, but after having raised our hopes and leading us to believe that the construction would be proceeded with, Government in an Order, dated 5th March, 1907, which appears somewhat illogical, declined to sanction any of those, giving as a reason that they were all *Feeder* roads. The distinction now drawn between *Branch* and *Feeder* roads I must confess I do not understand. The matter stands thus at present and it is for you to decide what further steps should be taken.

Railways.—There is, I understand, every prospect of the immediate construction of the Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat line, which will probably ultimately prove of value to the District, although it may adversely affect our local labour supply meanwhile.

Labour.—Some of our Members have thought it advisable to revert to the former rate of men's pay, *viz.*, 5 annas per day. Opinions were very much divided regarding the wisdom or necessity of the step, but while some estates still continue to pay the lower rate the fact remains that there has been, and is now, a scarcity of labour on some estates in the District.

Public Bazaar.—No orders have yet been issued regarding this, and the matter stands in abeyance at present.

U. P. A. S. I.—It is unnecessary here to refer in detail to the proceedings of our parent Association. You have all no doubt got the book of Proceedings for 1907 and realise all that is being done to further planting interests in Southern India generally, and the able manner in which our interests were cared for by the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson, who again represented us at the Annual Conference at Bangalore. There are, however, two important subjects at present under consideration, I refer to the scheme for the Popularisation of Coffee, and the appointment of a Scientific Officer. As regards the former, our Association has agreed to support any feasible programme which may be adopted, provided that any cess which may be levied in this connection is made compulsory. With reference to the proposed appointment of a Scientific officer while in entire sympathy with the movement, our funds unfortunately preclude us from rendering any financial support.

Accounts.—These are laid on the table. They have been audited and show a balance of Rs.334-4-6 cash in hand. Accounts in connection with the Minor Forest Produce Fund have been submitted to your Committee, and a statement will be issued to subscribers to this Fund in due course. I now place my resignation with that of your Committee in your hands.

GEO. L. DUNCAN,
Honorary Secretary.

Kanan Devan Planters' Association.

Minutes of a General Meeting held in the Munaar Club, on Saturday, 19th December, 1907.

Present:— Messrs. A. J. IMRAY, A. J. WRIGHT, W. J. DIXSON, J. C. SWAYNE, H. M. KNIGHT, C. BELL, A. F. MARTIN, A. W. JOHN, E. E. WILLIAMS, J. M. BRIDGMAN, and H. L. PINCHES (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. WILLIAMS proposed that Mr. MARTIN take the Chair.

U. P. A. S. I. Delegate's Report:—Mr. Pinches, who had represented the Association at the Annual Meeting, said:—

Under your directions I pressed the matter of the *Theni Bridge*, and the following Resolution which I proposed, and which was seconded by the Central Travancore Delegate, was carried unanimously:—

"That this Association feels very disappointed with the reply of Government to the representations made about the bridging of the Theni River and that considering the uncertainty which the Government themselves point out of the railway through the Cumbum Valley ever being constructed, and the fact that apart from this railway this bridge is an immediate and urgent necessity, Government be asked to re-consider their decision."

So far we have had no reply from Government to this Resolution.

A subject of equal importance to us was *Labour Recruiting* and *Emigration*, and the Chairman, Mr. Martin, gave some very interesting information with regard to the help given by Government to persons recruiting for foreign countries.

After considerable discussion the following Resolution was passed:—

"That this Association requests the Hon'ble Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Martin to interview informally members of the Madras Government and give them the information in our possession about Labour Recruiting and Emigration and gives full power to these two gentlemen to adopt such measures for the protection of the interests of Planters of South India as seems to them advisable, and that they report to this Association."

I have received a copy of their most interesting and instructive Report, which is placed on the table.

As a result of their interview with the members of the Madras Government, I have just received a copy of the following Government Order No. 865, Public:—

EMIGRATION, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

"It has been brought to the notice of Government that printed circulars advertising the Straits Settlements as a field for labour for Indian coolies are displayed in Post offices, Deputy Tahsildars' offices and other public buildings in many Districts. The intention of Government in their various orders requesting Collectors and District officers to afford the emigration agents of the Straits Settlements Government in India such assistance as may be found possible, was that District officers should give the agent such help as lay in their power in obtaining food-supplies or means of locomotion and such matters, and that no needless or improper obstacles should be placed in his way in procuring recruits. It is not the intention of Government that special official assistance should be given to any particular recruiting agency, or that emigration to any particular locality should be specially encouraged. The exhibition of posters in public offices is likely to be believed by ignorant persons to indicate that the Government accord special approbation to emigration to the Straits Settlements, and complaints have been received that they are so regarded. The Postmaster-General, Madras, and all Collectors will be requested to issue orders that circulars of the nature referred to should not be displayed in public buildings."

This puts a stop to one of the most objectionable practices in connection with recruiting for the Straits, and the thanks of the whole South Indian Planting Community are due to the Hon'ble Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Martin for having been instrumental in obtaining this redress to one of our chief grievances.

A subject that took up a lot of time was the question of a *Scientific Officer* for the Association, I had, however, received your instructions not to support this scheme. I may mention that the Central Travancore Association and the Mundakayam Association did not support it either.

The Madras Planters Labour Act was fully discussed, and although the Wynaad Planters have ceased to ask for its withdrawal it is only because Government have definitely refused to withdraw it.

The Nilgiri Planters believe that with certain further amendments the act will be satisfactory.

These are the only two Planting Districts in which the act is in force.

Another effort was made to get a reduction of the *Commission on Money Orders*, which, as Mr. C. E. Abbott pointed out, is out of all proportion to the rate pertaining in England. The Madras Trades Association has since backed us up.

In proposing a Resolution on the *British Import Duty on Tea*, I remarked that all Tea Planters would be glad to see that the Anti-Tea-Duty League were starting active work again and would earnestly impress upon all Tea Planters the necessity of subscribing to the funds of the League as money was urgently wanted.

I mention this in case any of you have not yet sent in your Rs. 5 for this season.

Mr. Ormerod was very rightly thanked for his services in conducting the *Planters' Chronicle*, and this periodical continues to increase its scope and usefulness.

Dr. Lehmann contributed a very interesting lecture on experiments in the pruning of apple trees, which I have no doubt you have all since read.

With regard to *Finance*, knowing that the Association had lost all its funds your Committee anticipated a raising of subscriptions all round and had authorized me to raise ours by Rs.150, if other Associations were increasing theirs.

In spite, however, of an earnest appeal by the Central Travancore Delegate, Mr. Richardson, there was no general increasing of subscriptions, so I was reluctantly forced to state ours for current season at Rs.520 as heretofore

Mr. Williams proposed a vote of thanks to Messrs. Martin and Pinches, seconded by Mr. Wright, and carried unanimously.

Boday Mettu Ghat Road.—Mr. Knight reported that the upper portion of this road was in very bad order and said it was impossible to keep it in decent repair as the trace was bad; he proposed that the worst portion should be abandoned and deviation made at a better gradient.

After some discussion it was resolved that the road cess that comes to about Rs.150 should be spent on retracing this part of the road.

Devicolam Munaar Road.—Mr. Knight proposed that Government be reminded of the Dewan's letter No. 4204, of 23rd September, 1902, and be requested to carry out their promise at an early date. Seconded by Mr. Bell and carried unanimously.

Gundumallay-Yellapatti Road.—Mr. Williams drew attention to the fact that owing to the absence of a bridge (other than a small foot bridge) at Parlar it was often impossible for a horseman to get from Gundumallay to the Munaar-Yellapatti cart road. After some informal discussion it was resolved that Mr. Williams and Mr. French form a committee to look into the question.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting terminated.

HERBERT L. PINCHES,
Honorary Secretary, K. D. P. A.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Annual Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on January 15th, 1908.

Present.—Messrs. C. E. Abbott, B. M. Behr, B. Malcolm, S. H. Powell Jnr.), A. Trollope, E. A. Hughes, G. H. Welchman, and H. Waddington (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. E. A Hughes in the Chair.

1326. *New Members.*—Messrs. H. A. Beachcroft, G. H. Welchman and S. Robinson were elected.

1327. The Honorary Secretary read the *Annual Report for* 1907.

Ten General Meetings have been held during the year and attendance of Members goes to show that interest in the business of the Association has not diminished.

The accounts for the year are laid on the table for examination. All subscriptions, with exception of one Member absent from the country, have been paid. We close the year with a credit balance of Rs.93-7-10.

Two new Members have been elected, one resigned on leaving the country and the liquidation of the Wynaad Tea Company will remove another name from the roll, there are now 33 members, which number will I hope shortly be increased. The amount of Tea harvested during last year must considerably exceed the crop of any previous year. Coffee and Pepper crops are about average ones and somewhat better than at one time seemed probable. The steady improvement in price of Tea is bringing back prosperity to our industry and there is a satisfactory hardening of prices in the Coffee Market, although value still remains so low that it is difficult to make ends meet on many properties that rely on Coffee alone. Pepper values seem inclined to decline, but price remains a remunerative one. Pepper disease still causes us considerable anxiety, and a certain amount of loss. The business of the Association during the year has been confined for the most part to matters of local interest, but although nothing stands out particularly, useful work has been done in several directions.

At our request a stable was erected at the Vayitri Magistrate's Court. The undue advantages offered recruiters of labour from other countries have been done away with. A working arrangement has been come to with Local authorities as to the signing of plague passports. The later despatch of the Mails from Meppadi and Velleramulla has improved Post Office arrangements in the Taluk. The new rules as to Timber Valuation appear as if they would be to our advantage in taking up land for planting. The energetic steps taken by Mr. Waite, as Deputy Collector, have done something to improve sanitary conditions of our bazaars, and we hope Local officials will not allow matters to relapse into their previous unsatisfactory condition. To support native enterprise we sent an exhibit to the Cannanore Exhibition and were awarded a medal, which by the way we have not yet received.

Roads.—One of the most satisfactory achievements of the year has been the cancelling of the proposal to let the road from Sultan's Battery to Nilgiris be closed for vehicular traffic. The road is being well repaired and should shortly be in excellent order and ample funds to allow of it being maintained have been budgetted for. With the exception of the Chundale-Sholadi Road on which the allotment was inadequate for the amount of work necessary, the roads under the District Board throughout the District have improved during the year and excellent work is now being done on many of them. It is with misgivings we see the state into which some portions of the Tambracherry Ghat are deteriorating apparently for want of sufficient metal. The Chundale-Sholadi Road referred to above is, if not the most important road, at least as important to us as any other road in the District, and we are glad to note that

extra provision has been made in the District Board Budget for increased expenditure on it during the next financial year.

Several matters before the Association remain unsettled and to which I refer briefly.

The stables at Poodupardie remain unfinished; owing to circumstances over which I have no control, it has been impossible for me to get the work done personally, and although Shangaren expresses himself willing to do the work, I find the same difficulty as all my predecessors. The only work that has been done was what I had performed under my own supervision on an occasion I was at Poodupardie; however, I hope to see stables completed shortly.

Scientific Officer.—This scheme was well supported in the District by members of the Association and Rs.538 promised for five years. In all, the different Associations affiliated to U. P. A. S. I. have promised so far a total of Rs.2,869 per annum. Details of the scheme are in the hands of the U. P. A. S I. and we can leave it to them to get it started.

Local Measures.—We asked that a standard measure should be enforced in Wynaad and Collector of Malabar is anxious that we should assist by bringing the Madras measure into use on our estates and in local bazaars. There is some difficulty owing to our present measure being the same as that in use in Mysore and disinclination on part of our grain suppliers to make the change, unless the Madras measure also comes into use there. I shall be glad to learn, what, after further consideration, is the opinion now of members of this Association and decide what steps we should take to introduce the new measure.

Money Order Commission.—We obtained the support of the Madras Trades' Association to our long-continued agitation against the present excessive charges for Money Order commission and the U. P. A. S. I. is, I think taking the matter up more vigorously than before, and will, we hope, bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion by obtaining some reduction.

Labour Law.—Of this I have little to report, the question of amending Act I of 1903 has been before us constantly, but although Government are anxious to amend the Act in conformity with our interests as well as those of the employees under the Act, so far they have failed to find the means of doing so which meet our approval, and we are anxious that the matter should be postponed till some more satisfactory solution of this difficult question is found than has yet been proposed. In meantime we are arranging to meet Mr. Hodgson and the Nilgiri Association to discuss the question, and hope that Mr. Hodgson will be able to arrange a meeting of delegates from the two Associations interested with members of Government who have the matter in hand

I have to thank all members of the Association for their consideration in excusing the many times I have had to ask their indulgence as regards Association work.

I now ask you to pass the Accounts and accept my resignation.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

The Report and Accounts were passed. Mr. Waddington was cordially thanked for his services during 1907 and re-elected Honorary Secretary for the year.

(Signed) E. A. HUGHES,
Chairman.

GENERAL MEETING.

Present.—Messrs. C. E. ABBOTT, B. M. BEHR, B. MALCOLM, S. H. POWELL, (Jnr.), A. TROLLOPE, E. A. HUGHES, G. H. WELCHMAN, and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. E. A. HUGHES in the Chair.

The Proceedings of last Meeting were confirmed.

Read general correspondence. The Honorary Secretary's letters approved.

1328. *Extradition.*—The Honorary Secretary was asked to obtain copy of Manual Procedure relating to Extradition.

1329. *Roads—Cart-hires.*—Read letter from Honorary Secretary and Collector of Malabar. The Honorary Secretary's proposal that limit be fixed at 2½ candies Blackwood, roughly 2,145 lbs., was approved. If the Regulations are to be extended to estate produce, the Association consider limit should be fixed at one ton.

1330 *Subscription to W. P. A.*—It was decided the subscription for 1908 should remain at Rs.18 as heretofore. The principle of an acreage assessment to meet subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. was accepted, on understanding the other Associations do likewise. Details to be settled next August.

1331. *Records.*—The Honorary Secretary and Mr. Trollope reported they had destroyed such papers as they considered it unnecessary to keep longer.

1332. *Labour Law.*—Read Honorary Secretary's letter to the Hon'ble Mr. Hodgson, approved, and his reply, also letter to Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

1333. *Non-service of Warrants.*—Read letters from Mr. West and from Honorary Secretary to Resident, Mysore, and Collector of Malabar, to which no replies have yet been received.

1334. *Thefts of Tea.*—From information given the Meeting, it appears Tea is being sold in Calicut at less than lowest price obtained at the Factories in Wynaad, and that there is considerable stealing of Tea going on in the District. The Honorary Secretary in consultation with Mr. Hughes and Superintendent of Police was asked to ascertain what steps can be taken to stop this and see if the provisions of the Coffee Stealing Act can be applied to Tea.

1335. *Coffee Passes.*—Read letter from Honorary Secretary of the Shevaroys' Association and connected papers, proposing that only one form of Coffee pass be used throughout Planting Districts of Southern India, that these shall only be obtainable from Tahsildar's office, who when issuing shall stamp them with his official seal, recording to whom they are issued. That passes be in triplicate, one form to be retained by issuer, one to be given carrier, and one to be sent Police, that the form given carrier shall immediately on delivery of the Coffee be given up and returned through the Local Police to Tahsildar who issued the form. That all passes shall be in English and the Vernacular of the District in which they are to be used.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write advising the Shevaroys' Association, we are considering the matter and to print above details of the scheme for information of Members.

1336. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. Circular Nos. 68 to 73, 1907.
" " Nos. 1 to 3, 1908.
I. T. A. Circular Nos. 21 and 22.
Tea Export Statement, November 1907.
G. O. 868, Advisory and Legislative Councils.
Report, Samalkota Agricultural Station.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) E. A. HUGHES,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

The Central Travancore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of this Association held at Glenmary, at 10 a. m., on the 18th January, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. H. S. HOLDER (*Chairman*), J. A. RICHARDSON, W. H. G. LEAHY, G. GORDON, R. ROISSIER, H. DRUMMOND DEANE, F. BISSETT, F E. THOMAS, C. W. LACY, D. MCARTHUR, W. GRAHAM, A. H. MEAD (*Honorary Secretary*).

The notice calling the Meeting was read and the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

The Chairman's Address.

GENTLEMEN,

It is the very greatest pleasure to me to occupy to-day the same office as at our Annual Meeting of 1907, so that while wishing you every prosperity during the year we have so recently entered upon, I can congratulate you on this successful season that has just come to a close.

For the time being, our produce is fetching a price, that after the 9 years period of depression we have struggled through, enables us to breathe freely once more, and I feel sure that no one will grudge us a spell of prosperity.

It will not be out of place to look for a moment to the cause of this pleasant change.

At Home, where we hardly dared hope for expansion, the reduction of duty has without doubt encouraged a considerably increased consumption and we have a genuine grievance in that this duty has not been still further reduced, for the present we must, however, leave our cause in the hands of our friends, who are making continued efforts in this direction.

Foreign markets are apparently chiefly responsible for the removal of our further out-put showing an increased consumption of about ten-and-a-half million on last year's figures, not quite in the same ratio as the increase of 1905-06, but still most satisfactory. A consequent and I believe further satisfactory feature, is the amount of stock held in London, which I gather to be some twelve millions lower than it has been for some years past.

All things considered, with cheap working you should have a prosperous year before you, but meanwhile to use a borrowed phrase "set your house in order," for he is indeed a wise man who can foretell our prices 12 months hence.

Extensions have been and are still being made, and we need every pound of foreign market we can secure, therefore, let us not relax our efforts to exploit fresh markets and develop those we have. Our thanks are due to the Indian Tea Association and the Administrators of the Indian Tea Cess for the able manner in which the cess has been controlled.

As to quality and plucking it should not be necessary for me to warn you to avoid temptation.

Most of you here to-day will have carefully perused Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton's Report, dated the 27th December last, which is as usual full of deep interest and to which I am indebted for some figures.

I will ask you while referring to this circular to accord these gentlemen a very hearty vote of thanks for their unremitting labour on behalf of our industry; not a Mail passes that does not bring us the well-known circular compiled with extreme care and accuracy and always full of information and interest. (*Applause*).

I feel sure that such an expression of appreciation will be acceptable.

Any remarks I might offer on our concluding year would be incomplete without reference to the departure of our friend Mr. LeFeuvre.

It is with deep regret that we have seen him leave us, and though we did our best to show him how much he was appreciated, we have still to record the good work he carried out for us during the two years he acted as Honorary Secretary of this Association, his tact and courtesy in dealing with whatever matter came before him was well known and valued.

As a friend and sportsman, we can never replace him, and as a brother Planter and adviser, he will always be greatly missed. (*Cheers*).

The year has witnessed a further change in the administration of the country, and it is to be hoped that the present state of affairs will continue.

Our thanks are due to our Executive Engineer for the work done on the Kottayam-Kumli road between Mundakayam and Peermade, which section is for the present in excellent order (*applause*); the rest of the road towards Kumli is in many places rapidly getting into a very bad state and requires attention.

From the fact that the Executive Engineer exclaims at the idea of an ordinary estate factory boiler being taken over the bridges I gather that some of them must be in a very bad state of repair. There is little use in giving us an excellent road if the bridges are to be allowed to drop to pieces.

They should all be strong enough to carry six to eight tons, and your Honorary Secretary should make it his business during the coming year to impress on the Authorities the necessity of strengthening them where not up to this weight.

Of the Periyar bridge, I think the less said the better; at the present rate of progress its completion or otherwise will probably interest few of us.

The Residency bridle-path and the Aruday short-cut have both been allowed to get into a very bad state of repair. These two very useful paths have for years been kept in fair order and it seems a pity that they should have lapsed into an almost impassable state. The Theni bridge is, I believe, as far from existing as ever.

I think that this is a matter in which our Planting Member might well help us.

I believe he was approached on the subject at the last U. P. A. Meeting, but I have not heard that anything has been done. I would suggest that this Association, in conjunction with the Kanan Devan Planters' Association, communicate with our Planting Member through the U. P. A. and request him to lay the matter before the Madras Government pointing out the urgent necessity of the bridge and recommend its speedy construction.

The road from Kottayam to Ammanayakanur is one of the few lines of communication between the East and the West and with the completion of the Periyar bridge will be trafficable throughout with the exception of the Tani and Periakulam rivers. I have seen your Honorary Secretary's Report and I think it touches on every subject dealt with by this Association during the year. I will now call on him to read it to you. (*Applause*).

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I thank you for the kind support you have given me during the two years I have had the honor to act as your Chairman, and for the way in which you have helped things to work smoothly and without friction and for your kind patience with my many short-comings.

I thank your Committee for their advice and assistance in all matters that have come before them and am deeply grateful to Mr. Mead for the prompt, earnest and successful manner in which he has attended to all Association matters, it has been a very great pleasure to work with him.

I will now place my resignation in your hands.

The Honorary Secretary's Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I hope I shall not tax your patience too greatly and can only say I have endeavoured to be as brief as possible.

PERIYAR BRIDGE.

We can only regret so little progress has been made with this important work during the past year. The urgency of this work being completed at an early date was demonstrated this past monsoon when rice supplies could not be taken across the river for days together and, in October, when a serious flood at the crossing causing loss of life and much property occurred.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The District roads have been handed over to the Association for up-keep for one year on trial and His Highness's Government have earned the best thanks of our Association by giving us a grant of Rs 1,000 towards the repair of storm damages and an extraordinary grant of Rs.200 a mile (on the condition that the estates interested contribute the same sum) towards putting these important feeder roads into good order. I have no doubt that the coming monsoon will see these roads in better order than they have ever been in spite of the greatly increased traffic they are now called upon to carry. In this connection I think I am wise in sounding a note of warning as to the shortage of carts which promises to become even more acute than at present, unless estates put more private carts on to the road.

POSTAL FACILITIES.

A Post-office has been opened at Vandi Periyar, and the Association is in correspondence with the Postmaster-General with a view to establish another Post-office on Fairfield Estate.

U. P. A. S. I.

This year the Parent body has suffered a severe blow owing to the failure of their bankers, Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. While we may hope the usefulness of the U. P. A. S. I, will not be seriously impaired, it is obvious that all District Associations must be prepared to pay their share of the annual expenses of that body. Our delegate, Mr. Richardson, to whom our best thanks are due for so ably representing us, put this very clearly and forcibly before the last Meeting, and it is to be hoped that at the next Annual Meeting all local Associations will be prepared to subscribe on an uniform acreage basis a sum sufficient to fully cover all working expenses.

SRI MULLAM ASSEMBLY.

Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre represented us this year, and our best thanks are due to him for doing so. His Report has been forwarded me and will be laid before the Meeting.

MEDICAL.

The subsidy we agreed to pay the Sub-Assistant Surgeon has been paid up to the 23rd October, on which date Dr. Jacob elected to give up the subsidy. Dr. Jacob has since been transferred, and no arrangement has been entered into with the new Medical Officer.

Owing to our representations Government have cancelled the old order allowing Medical Officers to charge an extra half fee for every 2 miles above 2 travelled, and they can now only charge mileage and the regulation fee

MEMBERSHIP.

The number of Members of the Association during the past year was 15, representing a declared acreage of 7,722.

CROP FOR 1907.

The Returns again show a large increase over the past season's figures, and this, coupled with a strong market for our teas, enables me to congratulate all proprietors on a very successful year. It is interesting to note that increasing interest is being now taken in Travancore teas on the London market, to judge by the constant references that have been made to their useful character in the 1907 Weekly Sale Reports. Factories all through the District have been or are being enlarged and new machinery and prime-movers installed which should tend to quality being better maintained during the heavy flushing months than has been possible in the past with insufficient room and ill-equipped buildings.

The actual Crop Returns total 4,469,749 lbs. from 8,153 acres in bearing, or an average yield of 548 lbs. per acre for the District, as against 3,904,568 lbs. from 8,090 acres or 482 lbs. per acre in bearing in 1906.

RUBBER.

A certain acreage has been put under this product in the Periyar valley and strong hopes are entertained that it will in a few years be a proved success.

ACCOUNTS.

	RS.	A.	P.
Subscriptions including Ladrum, 1906, subscriptions paid in January, 1907, after 1906 accounts were audited amount to ...	1,501	4	11
Expenditure for 1907 amounts to	1,318	7	1
Leaving a balance of	182	13	10
To which must be added last year's balance	212	6	7
Leaving a balance to carry forward of	395	4	5

Fifteen members promised to subscribe to the Anti-tea Duty League and 12 subscriptions have been paid in, leaving Rs.15 due to the Association under this heading.

In conclusion, I have to thank you, Gentlemen, for the honor you have done me in electing me as your Honorary Secretary, and I now beg to tender my resignation.

(Sd.) A. H. MEAD.
Honorary Secretary.

Proposed from the Chair that the Report be adopted.—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. J. A. Richardson, seconded by Mr. W. H. G. Leahy, the Accounts be passed.—*Carried.*

The Sri Mullam Delegate's Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following Report of the fourth session of the Sri Mullam Popular Assembly, held in Trivandrum, from the 18th to the 22nd of November, 1907, which I attended as your delegate. I regret I shall not be present at your Meeting on the 18th January.

You have probably all seen the Dewan's able address on the first day of the Assembly, as it was printed in full in the *Madras Mail*, so I will only remind you that the Dewan promised that the matter of Railways would receive careful consideration, and information be collected to enable Government to judge of the feasibility in the first instance of connecting Trivandrum with the Shencottah-Quilon line, but that no action would be taken unless Government felt reasonably certain that the proposed line would pay. The Dewan stated that the Travancore Government is paying over two lakhs of

rupees per annum to make good the guaranteed interest on the Shencottah-Quilon Railway; but it was pointed out by Mr. Knight and others, later in the session, that it is not likely that this line will ever pay, unless it is connected with Ernaculam, and the whole intervening country opened up. If no fresh financial liability can be undertaken by Government, then it was suggested that a loan should be raised to enable future Railway extensions being carried out.

The first subject that was down on the Programme of Business to which I had to speak as your representative was "Liquor shops adjoining estates." This was on the second day of the Assembly. I had previously had an interview with the Dewan in his own house, and as correspondence was going on *re* a liquor shop near Hope Estate, the matter was referred to in the course of my interview, and I pointed out that Government had previously written saying that they would, if possible, refer to the Association before putting up any new shops in Peermade. The Dewan said that though he sympathised with the Planters, the contract having been already given out, it could not be cancelled until another nine months had run, that is, till August next.

I asked Government for an assurance that in future no new liquor shops should be put up without reference to the District Association, pointing out that these shops did a lot of harm, and were not only detrimental to the interests of the proprietors of the estates, but also far more so to those of the estate labourers themselves, who were tempted to waste their earnings in drink. The Dewan in Assembly stated that the Excise Commissioner would be instructed to refer to the Association in future before starting any new contract or shop, and that the particular contract about which correspondence was going on would have to run another nine months.

I may mention that this subject of liquor shops was sent in by your Association as an extra subject after the Committee Meeting was held at which I was given special instructions as your deputy, and I had no special instructions on this matter. Had I known that besides the shop near Hope, the liquor shop between Woodlands and Twyford which was closed by a previous Dewan on representations from this Association, was going to be re-erected on identically the same site without any reference to this Association, I might have taken down all previous correspondence on this subject to show the Dewan, when I am convinced that his answer would have been different.

The next subject that I was down to speak on was "The Desirability for a Scientific Officer to assist Agriculture in the State." Six or seven gentlemen were down to speak on the question of improved agriculture, but it had been decided previously amongst the different members interested that the subject should be left to myself and Mr. Knight to bring forward.

As instructed I stated that my Association suggested that the office of a European Scientific Officer with some knowledge of entomology and mycology might be worked in conjunction with His Highness The Maharajah's Botanical Gardens, with a laboratory in Trivandrum and a branch one, if possible, in Peermade, which owing to its central position and medium elevation would be suitable for the completion of experiments the results of which could not be arrived at in Trivandrum. I pointed out that about two-thirds of His Highness's subjects depend upon agriculture in some form or another for their means of livelihood, and that a Scientific Officer would be able to give useful hints to cultivators as to manures most likely to benefit their various crops, and that in future we should not have owners of Cherikal lands sending representatives to the Assembly to ask for a reduction of the rates of assessment on the grounds that they could only raise one crop once in ten to fifteen years! I alluded to the recent visit of an expert sent down to investigate the appearance of a new pest which threatened to do great harm to and might even eventually exterminate the cocoanut industry in Travancore, from which was derived fifty per cent. of the total value of exports from the State. I

suggested the appointment of a representative commission to go into the matter thoroughly and formulate some definite scheme for His Highness's kind consideration. I was supported by Messrs. Knight and Valentine. The Dewan in his reply said that there was at present a Travancore gentleman, an Agricultural Chemist with an Edinburgh degree, whose studies were being paid for by the Government and who was now studying at Leipsic. He was due back in Travancore about September next and nothing could be done until he arrived and had been consulted as to the staff necessary for such a proposed scheme.

The other subjects were the Periyar bridge and the Kanjirapalli and Ghaut sections of the Kanjirapalli-Kumili road. It was stated in Assembly that the Periyar bridge would be opened before May next, and that estimates had been called for for the repairing with metal of the road between Waruwa and Kanjirapalli, which section had also been complained of by the Kanjirapalli Magistrate, but that the work could not be finished before the monsoon, as estimates had to be made.

In connection with the Periyar bridge, I pointed out that while hitherto its existence had only been a matter which affected us most seriously during the South-West Monsoon rains, it had now become a matter of vital importance in consequence of the opening and shutting of flood gates at the Periyar dam without any previous notice

These were all the subjects that were down for me to speak on as your representative. The Assembly lasted from Monday to Friday, when proceedings were brought to a close about 5 o'clock. The subjects discussed had a very large range, from the sinking of a village well to suggestions for regulating the conduct of public servants and for ensuring the proper discharge of their duties! Every member present admired the wonderful patience the Dewan showed in listening to the many requests and various suggestions brought forward. I have omitted to mention that in the interview kindly granted me by the Dewan, the matter of the proposed extraordinary grants towards the Planters' roads was discussed, and I was able to get the amount for storm damage which had been fixed in error at Rs.1,200 increased to Rs.2,400.

I will conclude, Gentlemen, by thanking you for the honour showed me in sending me to Trivandrum as your representative.

(Sd.) F. W. LEFEUVRE.

10*th January*, 1908.

Proposed by Mr. F. Bissett, seconded by Mr. G. Gordon, that Mr. LeFeuvre be thanked for his interesting Report.—*Carried.*

Correspondence.

MANAN'S CREEK BRIDGE.

READ—Letters to the Dewan of Travancore and Acting Chief Engineer and replies to the same.

DISTRICT ROADS.

READ—Correspondence on this subject and replies to the same.

ARRACK TAVERNS ADJACENT TO ESTATES.

READ—Letters on above question, dated October 31st, 1907, and January 11th, 1908, and Chief Secretary's reply to the former.

PERIYAR FLOOD.

READ—Correspondence with the Collector of Madura and Chief Secretary to Government, Trivandrum, and replies received.

MEDICAL.

READ—Letter from Dr. Jacob resigning subsidy.

Proposed by Mr. H. D. Deane, seconded by Mr. W. H. G. Leahy, that a Rs.50 monthly subsidy be offered to the present Sub-Assistant Surgeon in lieu of fees for attending Members of the Association and their families on the understanding that this arrangement can be terminated by a month's notice being given by either side.—*Carried.*

Report of the District Road Committee.

A Meeting was held at Stagbrook Bungalow, on November 28th, 1907. *Present*:—Messrs. H. D. DEANE, J. A. RICHARDSON, F. E. THOMAS, F. W. LEFEUVRE (*Sri Mullam representative*) and A. H. MEAD (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. H. D. Deane presided.

Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre reported that he had interviewed the Dewan and Acting Chief Engineer in Trivandrum. He was glad to be able to inform the Road Committee that Government were prepared to allow an extra grant for the Glenmary road on the same lines as the grant already given for the Cardamom Hill road

Resolved—That Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre be thanked for his services.

CARDAMOM HILL ROAD.

Mr. Deane reported that he had started work on his section and had estimated the cost of the 1st mile and 2 furlongs would amount to approximately Rs.545, with 2 culverts only, but that the section 1 M. 2 F.—2 M. 2 F. would cost more.

Proposed by Mr. A. H. Mead, seconded by Mr. J. A. Richardson, that in view of the Acting Chief Engineer's letter No. 1150, dated the 29th October, 1907, Members of the Road Committee engaged on repairing the Cardamom Hill road be authorised to spend up to Rs.600 a mile inclusive of the cost of 8 culverts per mile, but that any extra expenditure above this figure must be sanctioned by the Road Committee.—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. A. H. Mead, seconded by Mr J. A Richardson, that Mr. Deane be authorised to spend an extra Rs 100 on the section 1 M. 2 F.—2 M. 2 F. and be authorised to purchase requisite tools for road work.—*Carried.*

Proposed from the Chair that the unit estates are to be assessed on shall be 1 furlong.—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. J. A. Richardson, seconded by Mr F. E. Thomas, that any unit of road made use of by an estate for crop, rice, firewood, estate requisites, or tea cultivation, shall be assessable.—*Carried.*

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary be asked to draw up and circulate Schedules for road expenditure so that Members of the Road Committee may be able to submit their accounts on a standard form.

Proposed from the Chair that the Honorary Secretary do write to the Acting Chief Engineer for permission to make use of public works lines along he Planters' branch roads and for use of two hand-carts, rollers and road stampers.—*Carried.*

Resolved—That Mr. H. D. Deane be authorised to engage an Overseer at a rate not exceeding Rs.30 per mensem, and that the cost of such Overseer be included in the amount sanctioned for the roads

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to His Highness's Government respecting the Woodlands bridge and one bridge on the Cardamom Hill road which require to be re-built at once.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write at once to all Managers of estates interested in the Cardamom Hill road and Glenmary road and request them to declare from what mile and what furlong post they make use of these roads, and further to declare their acreage under cultivation for assessment purposes.

RATES.

The following rates were agreed upon :—

1st class metals	...	... Rs.10 per cube.
2nd & 3rd class metals ..		... ,, 3-8 to 2-8.
Covering stones for culverts		... As. 6 per c. ft. split.

The Meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

A. H. MEAD,
Honorary Secretary.

RESOLUTION

Proposed by Mr. H. D. Deane, seconded by Mr. R. Roissier, that this Association do request the Government to permit the land owners in the Peermaad division of the Cardamom Hills to grow Cardamoms on their waste and uncultivated lands on payment after the third year from commencement of cultivation. Such extra tax as will bring the total taxes to the same rate per annum as that which is now being paid by lessees of lands in the northern portion of the Cardamom Hill District.

Mr. Deane spoke at some length in support of his Resolution and explained how the matter had been brought up by him some years previously and how in his opinion the argument no longer was admissible which had been put forward at that time, namely, that the Cardamom Hill Planters were paying heavily for a monopoly and would not have taken up land on the terms they had done unless it had been clearly understood that Cardamom cultivation (except on the mettayer system) was strictly prohibited owing to their rate of taxation having been reduced from Rs.8 an acre to Rs.2 of late years.

Mr. Deane's Resolution on being put to the vote was however lost.

U. P. A. S. I. SUBSCRIPTION.

Mr. Richardson asked that the various District Associations should be again addressed on this subject and pointed out that unless steps were taken in time before the next Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., it would be impossible to properly carry on the work of the Parent body.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write a circular letter to the other District Associations and point out the urgency of the matter.

COPPER COINAGE.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to Government and point out that the want of sufficient copper coinage causes great inconvenience in the District.

PLANTING MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Recorded with regret that the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson feels obliged to relinquish the work of Planting Member of Council owing to his having to proceed to England in May.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and record the District's vote in favour of Mr. P. R. Buchanan if he is prepared to take up the work.

KUMILI-AMMANAVAKANUR ROAD.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the Chairman, of the District Board, Madura, and point out the very bad state of the road between Vera Pandi and Kurivanooth Also that he do point out the desirability of a good Travellers' bungalow at the foot of the Ghaut, and ask the District Board whether they would be prepared to build an additional Planters' room in event of the Association bearing the cost of this.

ACCELERATION OF MAILS BETWEEN PEERMAAD AND THE HIGH RANGE.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the Postmaster-General on the subject.

FITTER FUND.

Balance Sheet of this Account was laid on the Table and passed.

Proposed from the Chair that the following Committee go into the matter of the working of this Fund for 1908 and circularise Members of the Association. Messrs. F. Bissett, J. A. Richardson, and H. C. Westaway. *Carried.*

SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1908.

It was pointed out by the Honorary Secretary that a subscription of 2½ annas per cultivated acre should cover expenses, but at the suggestion of Mr. H. D. Deane it was resolved that a 3-anna rate, as in 1907, should be levied so as to meet any possible contingencies which might arise.

Election of Officers for 1908.

MR. D. MCARTHUR,—*Chairman.*
MR. W. GRAHAM,—*Vice-Chairman.*
MR. F. E. THOMAS,—*Honorary Secretary.*
MR. J. A. RICHARDSON
HON'BLE V. B. WILBRAHAM } *Committee.*

Mr. McArthur and Mr. F. E. Thomas thanked the Meeting for the honor done them in electing them.

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Meeting terminated.

A. H. MEAD,
Honorary Secretary.

THE INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION (CALCUTTA).

Extracts from an abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 17th December, 1907.

Mosquito Blight in the Dooars.—In the proceedings of last Meeting it was mentioned that the General Committee had decided to ask Mr. Antram, the Association's Entomologist, to proceed at once to the Dooars with the view of carrying out exhaustive investigations into the various questions connected with this blight. Mr Hutchinson and Mr. Antram have, however, suggested that the visit should be postponed until early in January. Mr. Antram is at present engaged on important experiments in connection with the blight at Kanny Koori, and the immediate abandonment of these would, he feared, considerably prejudice the favourable results that might be anticipated. The Committee carefully considered what Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Antram pointed out in this connection, and they were agreed that the risk of prejudicing the experiments in any way should be avoided. They accordingly decided to authorise a postponement of the proposed visit of Mr. Antram until next month. The Dooar Planters' Association were to be informed of the Committee's decision.

In the course of his letter Mr. Antram writes that his recent experiments have aimed at determining the relative efficiencies of various insecticides, with a view to discovering a cheaper and, if possible, more efficient remedy than Kerosine Emulsion; he hopes shortly to be in a position to publish the results of his investigations in this direction.

Extracts from an abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 7th January, 1908.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters of 6th, 13th and 20th December from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, which had been previously circulated, were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subjects dealt with in these letters were as follows:—

(*a*) *Monthly Figures of Manufactured Tea.*—Reference was made to this subject in the Proceedings of the Meeting of Committee of 12th November, when it was mentioned that the London Committee were endeavouring to arrange for the supply to them monthly, by the chief agency houses and proprietors, of a return of the amount of tea made, with a view to circulating the figures for the aggregate. This has now been arranged, and a copy of the first return has been sent for the information of the General Committee: it is not proposed as was originally suggested, to ask this Association to obtain any figures, those obtained in London being sufficient for purposes of the London Committee.

(*b*) *Franco-British Exhibition.*—In connection with this Exhibition, to be held in London in the course of the present year, Sir James Buckingham wrote that some good photographs, illustrating the process of tea manufacture, would be required, and he suggested that these might be procured and forwarded to him. The Committee understood that suitable photographs could be obtained from Mr. Kapp, Dacca, and it was decided to forward an extract from Sir James Buckingham's letter to the Indian Tea Cess Committee, with the suggestion that they should comply with his request.

Light Railways for Assam.—This subject was discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Assam Branch on 12th November last, and a resolution was passed to the effect that the Branch should, in conjunction with the

London and Calcutta Tea Associations and the Surma Valley Branch, lay before the Provincial Government a strong and forcible statement regarding the backwardness of the communications away from existing Railways in the Province. and should urge the necessity for careful consideration of the question and the inauguration of a definite policy to meet the urgent requirements of the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys Following on this Resolution, the Secretary of the Assam Branch, in a letter of 17th December, asked the views ot the General Committee.

The matter was discussed, and the Committee were unanimously in sympathy with the proposal of the Branch, who were to be informed of the feeling ot the Committee Should the Indian Tea Association (London) and the Surma Valley Branch also agree, the Assam Branch are to request the General Committee to frame a strong joint representation to Government.

The Tea Soils of North-east India.—Dr. Mann has recently issued a publication under this title, giving a *resumé* of the practical results of his investigations on the tea soils of North-east India and their treatment during the period of his connection with the Association as Chief Scientific Officer. Some of the work consists of matter that has been published from time to time before, but the information is co-ordinated in a way not hitherto attempted, while a large part has not been before made public The book extends to more than 280 pages, and as it has cost a considerable sum to produce the Committee decided to depart from the usual practice of distributing free copies to all gardens which are members of the Association, and instead, to make a charge of Rs.2 per copy.

Scientific Department.—Mr. Hutchinson and Dr. Hope, the Association's Scientific officers, attended the Meeting ot the Committee, and discussed with them several matters of interest. In connection with the investigation into Mosquito Blight, which Mr. Antram has been carrying on for the past few months at Kanny Koori, Mr. Hutchinson has submitted an interim Report recommending the use of a spraying solution made up of one pound of Primrose Soap mixed with 20 gallons of water. The nature of the experiments conducted with this solution was described by Mr. Hutchinson, and the Committee decided to publish for general information the note which he had submitted: this will be followed, when the investigations are completed, by a fuller report on the matter. In this connection Mr. Antram has now proceeded to the Dooars to make a personal study of the cold weather history of the mosquito in that District, and it is expected that he will be able to obtain some valuable information.

In the Proceedings of 17th September last reference was made to a proposal by Mr. Hutchinson that arrangements might be made for the issuing periodically of a journal dealing with matters of interest in connection with the Scientific Department, which would serve as a medium for the exchange of opinions by Planters and others. It was then decided to wait until Mr. Hutchinson should arrive in Calcutta before dealing with the matter. Advantage was now taken of his presence at the Meeting to discuss the suggestion; Mr. Hutchinson referred to the benefits ot such a journal and indicated the lines upon which it would be conducted, and, after a general discussion, the question was postponed for further consideration.

With reference to the investigation on the cause of cheesy taint in Teas which has occupied the attention of the Department for some time past, Mr. Hutchinson reported the progress that had been made and the steps that still remain to be taken to complete the study.

Mr D. J. GUZMAN has writtern a description of a disease of coffee due to attacks of *Stilbum flavidum*, together with observations regarding the distribution of the fungus, and its effect on the crop. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture is said to hold it in check. Under the prevailing conditions the disease seems most favoured during the months from March to May, particularly on those estates where the cultural conditions are favourable for the development of the fungus.

Mosquito Blight: Preventive Measures for use during the Cold Weather after Pruning.

Owing to the unprecedented severity of this blight during the past season (1907), it has been considered advisable to devote special attention to methods of combating it; with this intention the Insectarium at Kanny Koori has been given up almost entirely during the past three months to investigation of the life history of the insect, and more especially to the effect of various insecticides upon it at different stages of its growth.

The high cost of Kerosine Emulsion led to the conclusion that our first efforts should be directed towards the discovery of a cheaper and not less efficacious insecticide; after long and patient experiment Mr. Antram has been successful in finding a solution which is equally as deadly in its action on the insect as Kerosine Emulsion, and at the same time can be applied at twice the rate per acre at one quarter the cost of the latter. The immediate object of this Report is to make known the composition of this solution in time to allow of its use during the present cold weather after pruning.

Composition of Soap Solution for Mosquito Blight—

"Primrose" Soap ...	... 1 lb.
Water	... 20 gallons.

"Primrose" Soap is an ordinary Yellow Bar Soap, easily procurable in this country; it has been selected on account not only of its superior insecticidal effect, but for its property of forming a clean solution which will readily pass through the fine Vermorel nozzle of the sprayer, other makes of soap having a tendency to form gritty deposits which choke the nozzle. The simplicity of the solution should make it easier to prepare and use than Kerosine Emulsion, nor has the soap solution any tendency to burn the bushes.

The solution should be applied at the rate of 300 gallons per acre for each round of spraying, the cost of which application will be about Rs.2-8-0 per acre, as compared with Rs.6 per acre required for applying 150 gallons of Kerosine Emulsion.

Much money and labour has been wasted in spraying Kerosine Emulsion at such a low rate per acre that the majority of the bushes are not thoroughly wetted with the insecticide; it is a matter of the first importance that every part of a bush should receive its due share of the spray, so that the Mosquito, whether in the adult or larval form, should not be able to escape by taking shelter on the under sides of leaves and branches, or in the bottom of the bush. It is obvious that the thoroughness with which saturation of the bush can be accomplished with the least amount of labour and material must depend largely upon the style of pruning carried out before the spraying takes place. Thorough cleaning out of the bushes is an essential preliminary to effective treatment of this blight, and should indeed invariably form part of the method of cold weather cultivation on gardens liable either to Mosquito, Red Spider or fungal diseases such as Grey Blight and Thread Blight. The amount of solution required to thoroughly saturate a well cleaned-out bush is less than one quarter of the quantity necessary for use on one full of small shoots, and with its base choked with accumulations of refuse.

The soil below the bush should also be thoroughly wetted, as many insects, especially in the larval stage, fall to the ground when the bush is disturbed.

Mr. Antram's investigations have confirmed our previous conclusions that the Mosquito is able to live and breed during the cold weather, laying its eggs in green shoots, and in the midribs of old leaves, but his experiments have shown that the supposition that Kerosine Emulsion is able to destroy the eggs is no longer tenable; unfortunately we have so far been unable to discover a solution which would combine this property with a cost sufficiently low to make it applicable for this purpose, although we hope to do so in the near future; this makes it necessary to include at least two rounds of spraying

in any scheme for complete eradication of this blight, so that those insects present in the eggs stage during the first round may be destroyed as larvæ by the second.

It has always been found that eggs hatch out even from dried up prunings, so that on any garden subject to this blight it is essential that all prunings should be either burnt or buried in trenches at a sufficient depth to ensure the destruction of the unhatched eggs. In the absence of information as to the depth necessary to produce this result, burning would be a safer course to adopt. It is also most important that no prunings should be allowed to remain inside the bushes. All prunings should be burnt immediately after pruning, as a delay of a few hours might allow of the hatching out of numerous larvæ.

A further discovery of great importance recently made by Mr Antram is the finding of numerous eggs of the Mosquito on the "Misi" plant (*Melastoma Malabathricum*) or wild rhododendron so common as jungle on all gardens. The universal distribution of this plant naturally complicates the situation considerably, but the fact of its suitability as a host for the eggs of the Tea Mosquito makes its removal from the neighbourhood of Tea gardens imperatively necessary. It seems extremely probable that a large percentage of the mosquitoes which survive the cold weather conditions unfavourable to the deposition of eggs, are able to find more favourable sites for propagating their species in the "Misi" plant bordering the Tea, and if this is the case the eradication of the blight would be greatly helped by the cutting down or burning of this bush.

The insecticidal effect of the Soap solution has been ascertained by a actual experiment on the living Mosquito in the laboratory but its true value in practice can of course be arrived at only by trial on a large scale. I shall be glad to hear from Managers who decide to make trial of this solution, and to furnish them with any further particulars they may require.

C. M. HUTCHINSON.

In the "*Fungus Parasites of the Tea Plant*," by N. N. Von Speschnew (Die Pilzparasiten des Teestrauches) a report is given on the various species of parasitic fungi known to occur upon the tea plant, most of the information being drawn from the author's investigations in the Caucasus, but supplemented by data from other tea growing countries. The fungi, of which 22 species are described, are grouped according to whether they occur on the leaves, stems, or roots. After technical descriptions of the different species and accounts of their distribution, injury caused, etc., suggestions are given for their control by spraying or by cultural methods, so far as any are known.

In the annual report of the *Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station* for 1906 it is remarked that the coffee industry is one especially adapted to the development of a stable population of small landowners. Yet it is also stated that practically every small producer engaged in coffee growing in Hawaii has been forced out of business. A few of the larger growers who remained have managed to continue through the exercise of the most vigilant care and economy, and have held on more because they had faith in the future than on account of actual profits returned upon their investment. The chief cause of failure as regards coffee growing in Hawaii is due to economic conditions. The best grades of Hawaiian coffees have always been in demand, and these grades sell themselves The low grades, however, cannot be produced in competition with Brazil and similar countries. It is rightly added that another factor affecting the coffee situation is that the character of the coffee trade as a whole is changing. The bulk of the coffee now purchased by the consumer has been roasted or roasted and ground. This practice lends itself to the substitution of low grades for high grades especially when coffee already ground is placed in the market. It is believed that a considerable quantity of coffee that under the old conditions would be unsaleable is worked over and mixed with good grades in the so-called "Package" coffees.

THE PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION of CEYLON.

The Committee.

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Friday, the 10th January, 1908

PLANTING REPRESENTATIVE IN COUNCIL.

Read letter from Colonial Secretary, dated 8th November, intimating that in view of the wish expressed by the Planters' Association, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to re-appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Ed. Rosling to be provisionally, subject to His Majesty's confirmation or disallowance, an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of the Island for a term of six months commencing from the 5th November, 1907.

ADDITIONAL PLANTING MEMBER, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A discussion on the circulation of the Chairman's letter on the above subject having taken place, the following Resolution was put from the Chair, but met with no support from the Committee,—"That His Excellency the Governor be asked to appoint a second Member of Council to represent low-country planting interests of all kinds."

IMPORT DUTY ON INDIAN TEA IN CEYLON.

Read letter from the Colonial Secretary, forwarding correspondence, &c., for comment.

Resolved:—"That on behalf of the Planters' Association this Committee emphatically contradicts the allegation that there is any change in their opinion on this subject; and that the Secretary be instructed to obtain figures showing quantity of Indian tea sold in Colombo during 1907, for the information of the Colonial Secretary."

LABOUR SUB-COMMITTEE.

Submitted following recommendations from Labour Sub-Committee "That this Committee approve of the principle of estate labourers being brought over free of cost from India to the estates."

It was resolved by a majority:—"That this Committee suggests that the necessary funds should be raised by a poll-tax on immigrant labourers employed in Ceylon excepting those employed in domestic service."

Resolved:—"That consideration of these be postponed until the Government Labour Commission is appointed."

SINHALESE LABOUR.

Mr Jas. Westland having introduced his scheme for a Labour Bureau, it was resolved:—"That this Committee desires to record its most grateful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his encouraging remarks to the Matale Planters with reference to the further development of Sinhalese labour. With a view to carrying out His Excellency's wishes the Committee is unanimously of opinion that were H. E. the Governor to submit the suggestions (as attached) to the Government Agents, and through them, to the R. M.'s and Headmen, for their opinions, that a Labour Bureau would bring the workers and employers of labour together in a manner which would be beneficial to the whole of Ceylon."

TEA CROP ESTIMATE, 1908.

Intimated that the Sub-Committee's estimate for 1908 was 178,000,000 lbs.

The "Thirty Committee."

Extracts from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the "Thirty Committee" appointed to administer the proceeds of the export duty on tea levied under Ordinance No. 4 of 1894 for increasing the consumption of Ceylon tea in foreign lands held at the Victoria Commemoration Buildings, Kandy, on Saturday, the 11th January, 1908.

China Tea in United Kingdom.—The attention of the Committee was called to paras and letters appearing from time to time in Home papers extolling the virtues of China teas and disparaging those of Ceylon. *Resolved*:—"That the Secretary write to the Ceylon Association in London asking their views on the desirability of and the best methods for counteracting the propaganda in favour of China teas to which the attention of this Committee had been drawn."

Ceylon Tea in the Continent of Europe.—Submitted correspondence from Mr. J. H. Renton as circulated to members. Read letter from Mr. J. H. Renton, dated 5th December. Intimated that a request from Mr. Renton for an extra vote on account Münich Exhibition of £1,200 had been circulated to all members of "Thirty Committee" for expression of their opinion and that 22 replies in favour, and 4 against, had been received. *Resolved*:—"That the Secretary's telegram to Mr. Renton, 'Sanction Münich twelve hundred,' be confirmed."

Read letter from Mr. G. A. Marinitsch asking to be supplied with photos and maps for Exhibition. *Resolved*:—"That the Secretary be instructed to comply, as far as possible, with Mr. Marinitsch's request."

Ceylon Tea in the Continent of America.—Submitted correspondence from Mr. W. Courtney and Messrs. P. C. Larkin & Co., as circulated.

Read letter from Mr. Courtney, dated 6th December, acknowledging receipt of cable remittance £800 in response to his telegram of 26th November, "New Demonstrations opened nine cities. Cable eight hundred pounds."

Read code message from Mr. Courtney, dated 6th December, "I think it would be advisable continue commission 31st day of January, now in full operation and very satisfactory, more time required to enable me to arrange close upon best possible terms. Must have definite reply by 12th day of December." *Resolved*:—"That action of Chairman and Secretary in forwarding following reply be confirmed: 'Continuation commission 31st January, approved.'"

In the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and Federated Malay States* it is remarked that the acreage under coffee has again considerably decreased and only a few acres have been planted up. A larger proportion of coffee acreage has been interplanted with rubber, the former being gradually cut out. Prices have remained fairly satisfactory, and were it not for the fact that rubber is considered to the exclusion of all other cultivations, coffee would be increasing, instead of gradually being wiped put. Leaf disease on coffee is still prevalent, and there is little hope that while coffee remains this pest will cease, but the crops have not been very seriously affected by them. The Native States have produced 22,291 cwts. of coffee from 9,708 acres, an average of about 2¼ cwts. per acre. but this average includes a great deal of coffee which is growing under rubber of three years and upwards and consequently gives little or no crop. Selangor has nearly four-fifths of the coffee acreage, and the crops in that State work out on average of a little under 3 cwts. per acre.

TEA.

Exports of Ceylon Tea from Colombo and Galle during the past Ten years.

	Black Tea. lbs.	Green Tea. lbs.
Total Exports from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1907 ...	176,117,016	5,906,716
Do. do. do. do. 1906 ..	165,899,399	4,009,936
Do. do. do. do. 1905 ...	169,460,674	3,169,286
Do. do. do. do. 1904 ...	153,845,636	5,107,329
Do. do. do. do. 1903 ...	142,472,345	8,647,664
Do. do. do. do. 1902 ...	146,194,397	2,796,844
Do. do. do. do. 1901 ...	145,188,244	1,110,774
Do. do. do. do. 1900 ...	148,431,639	*
Do. do. do. do. 1899 ...	129,894,156	...
Do. do. do. do. 1898 ...	119,769,071	...
Do. do. do. do. 1897 ...	116,054,567	...

Distribution of Exports.

COUNTRIES.	Black Tea.		Green Tea.	
	1907. lbs.	1906. lbs.	1907. lbs.	1906. lbs.
To United Kingdom ...	110,571,804	106,557,369	1,097,032	539,456
„ Austria	204,856	327,547	250	...
„ Belgium	62,937	58,282	...	...
„ France	486,926	582,836	...	...
„ Germany	566,759	1,007,480	...	11,530
„ Holland	61,757	136,571	...	...
„ Denmark	23,427	81,396	...	...
„ Italy	30,959	19,385	...	...
„ Russia	17,728,415	12,730,915	2,222,596	968,178
„ Spain	42,940	36,302	...	...
„ Norway and Sweden ...	165,845	100,716	..	...
„ Turkey	128,575	85,394	2,000	1,155
„ India	1,178,692	1,103,957	43,492	55,596
„ Australia	24,285,676	23,588,937	. .	...
„ America	10,038,112	10,712,614	2,537,746	2,425,692
„ Africa	1,210,518	1,296,710	...	210
„ China	8,460,816	6,585,012	. .	4,559
„ Japan	95,598	74,546	2,800	1,935
„ Straits Settlements ...	470,040	411,222	...	1,525
„ Mauritius	77,016	121,208	...	...
„ Malta	215,348	281,000	...	...
Total Exports from 1st Jan. to 31st December, 1907 ...	176,117,016	165,899,399	5,906,716	4,009,936

RUBBER.

Ceara Rubber.

On Saturday, October 12th, 1907, the first Rubber Convention ever held upon American soil took place at the Nahiku Rubber Company's Plantation on Maui, Hawaii.

The first speaker at the Convention was Mr. Jared G. Smith, of the U. S. Experiment Station, who in part said as follows:—

Occurrence of the Latex.

"Rubber, in the condition that it is found in the plant occurs in the tissues. In the Ceará it exists in a network of cells not directly connected. That is, it is the opposite, for instance, to the arrangement of the blood in the human system. If the arm should be cut from a man he would bleed to death, but when you break a branch off a rubber tree the tree does not necessarily die. There is a certain connection, but it is not a close one. If a rubber tree should be cut down you would by no means get all the rubber from it The latex from only a small area would be withdrawn.

"The rubber in a plant seems to be placed there for the purpose of preventing evaporation of moisture and to stop up wounds which would otherwise cause trouble and possible damage to the tree. There certainly is rubber in many trees in Hawaii, and it seems to me that there should be a great deal of success in the growing of rubber trees here."

The Cultivation of Rubber.

Dr. Waterhouse read a paper containing a comprehensive account of the cultivation of Rubber.

The general sources of rubber are:

I.—Wild Rubber.

This has been and still is the main source of the world's rubber supply. This rubber comes mainly from the Amazon region, coming chiefly from the species Hevea Braziliensis, which, taking its name from the port of Pará from which it is shipped, is called "Pará Rubber" and is the standard rubber of the world. Also much sapium rubber—an inferior grade—comes from this locality.

The Ceará wild rubber comes to the market in the form of scrap, as the bark is shaved off the wild trees and the coagulated latex removed from the sides of the trees. There has been no attempt at collecting the latex from the wild trees, probably from the fact that the latex coagulates so quickly on exposure to air.

Next to South America, Africa produces the largest amount. This is inferior to the South American product and comes chiefly from vines such as the Landolphias, and from root rubbers; also from the *Funtumia elastica* and *Kihexia elastica* trees.

Considerable rubber comes from Java and India, and from the South Sea Islands, mainly from *Ficus elastica*, or the red rubber of commerce. Also there is wild Castilloa from Mexico and Central America. Guyale rubber comes from a shrub growing mainly in Mexico Contrary to the supposition of many, though this is only a shrub three feet high, it is very slow growing, most of that used at present to manufacture rubber being twenty or thirty years old. From the first year, when only six inches high, it flowers and seeds. Up to the third year it contains no rubber at all, and from the third to the eighth year the percentage of rubber is small and it is only fit for use when

it is eight years old. The quality is inferior. The available supply will last only four or five years and then the supply will be exhausted. It will, therefore, help to fill the supply until more plantation rubber can take its place.

II.—Forest Planted Rubber.

Rubber planted in the forest to supplant wild trees and vines of the forest. There is considerable of such planting going on in Africa and there will probably be much more now that the Ryan Syndicate has taken over Congo Free State Concession.

III.—Plantation Rubber.

Next comes plantation rubber, which can easily compete as far as the cost of production goes, with the other two classes, and with the increasing knowledge as to its preparation and the consequent increase in the lasting power of the rubber, it is destined eventually to crowd out the other two forms if a low price brings them into a life and death competition.

There are, as is well known, a number of different varieties which are being cultivated in different parts of the world, being mainly the Hevea or Pará, the Ceará or *Manihot Glaziovii*, the Castilloa, and the *Ficus elastica* or Rhambong.

Hevea Brasiliensis.

Of these the *Hevea Brasiliensis is* probably the most important. Its cultivation has been highly successful in Ceylon and the Malay States and it has had far more thought expended on it and its culture has reached a far higher point than that of any other variety. For the last twenty years or more scientists in the admirably conducted Botanic Gardens of these localities have been putting time and thought on the various problems in regard to the Hevea. This has gone hand in hand with cultivation on a larger and larger scale, so that planting, care of the trees, collection of the latex, and the production of the rubber, has been reduced to a science; the fact of its increasing yield from year to year in spite of, and even stimulated by, tapping, has been demonstrated. Cost of collection, market price, etc., all have been reduced to a business basis; though there are improvements every day.

Ceara.

With the Ceara things are quite different. Ceylon has just awakened to the value of this variety and it is only now that trees are beginning to be tapped that were planted many years ago. Malay peninsula never took up this variety. Central America plantations are just beginning to tap Hawaii thus has a chance to be in the van in regard to solving of the problems presented by this variety. At present Ceylon is a novice in regard to tapping Ceará, but in two or three years, when our plantations are coming into bearing here, they will have had more experience with that variety there and will probably be of service to us. However, we should solve many of these problems ourselves and have a chance to be "leaders" in regard to this variety.

This variety certainly has its own distinctive problems. Such as handling of the outer bark, after the first tapping, the rapid coagulation of the latex on exposure to air, etc., etc. First tappings are so far as they have advanced in regard to Castilloa on a large scale. So that, take it all in all, the rubber growing industry is still in its infancy.

Briefly, we will take up some of the questions to be answered in any variety with the experience elsewhere:

Methods of Planting.

1. *In Nurseries.*—This is the most successful way in regard to the Hevea. Subsequently the nursery plants are planted out as seedlings or stumps.

Some have used baskets for seedlings, but this has been given up. Planting stumps, however, has proved the best method. There has been some talk, I believe, of planting this year's Hevea seeds in Nahiku in baskets, but I think planting in a clean weeded nursery in a warm locality and then stumping those that have grown very well, would be best. They can remain even one or two years in the nursery, if necessary, in this way, though probably the next spring would be a good time.

2. *At Stake.*—Insects, rats, etc., are very troublesome when this is done. This method is very successful in Castilloa, however, when seeds are cheap and a number can be planted together and one plant used.

Distances in Planting.

This is a most important subject and one on which there is a very great variety of opinions.

There are great variations. Trees are planted all the way from 10 × 10 or 400 to the acre, to 20 × 20 or even 30 × 30, 15 × 15 or 200 to the acre is considered medium planting. Many plant closer along the rows and with wider distances between the rows, as 10 × 10 and 20 feet between the rows, or 15 × 15 and 20 feet between the rows.

However, it may be said that the general trend of opinion in the Malay peninsula and Ceylon is towards wider planting and more room for the trees.

Close *versus* Wide Planting.

In general, it may be said that close planting is more suited to poorer land and wide planting to more fertile land, The plan of planting closely with the idea of, in the early years, cutting out alternate trees, has not been found to be very successful, as they have to be cut out before they are old enough to pay for themselves or much more than do so, and in cutting them out branches of the other trees are damaged and theoretically there is more danger of disease from the stumps, etc. One argument for wide planting is shown in the results on the highlands and lowlands estate in the Federated Malay States, as cited by Ivor Etherington. A block of Pará rubber trees, 16 acres in extent, contains 807 trees planted 30 × 25 feet. These are nine years old and completely cover the ground. Over the whole estate the year's crop amounting to 95,333 lbs. from 33,967 trees tapped all through the year, and 4,672 lightly tapped. The average yield is 2·46 lbs. per tree per year; but from 807 widely planted trees the yield during the year was 5,742 lbs. of rubber, giving an average of 7·05 lbs. per tree. Of course this is not conclusive as the bulk of the trees were of all ages, though many of them were nine-year old trees.

Ceara Trees.

That our Ceará trees planted 400 to the acre will have to be thinned out eventually there is no doubt. However, by having the first tappings made on alternate trees, skill in tapping and experience can be acquired by tapping the trees which will eventually be cut out before the alternate trees are touched, which can be allowed to grow considerably larger before being tapped.

However, in these plantations at Nahiku, which have a considerable number of their trees planted 400 to the acre, it would seem advisable to plant, if not the rest of their acreage with 200 trees to the acre, say, at least enough to be able to judge later which proved to be the best method. One distance in planting should not be adhered to exclusively when in the development stage.

When countries where it costs almost nothing more to have 400 to the acre, because the place is clean-weeded anyway, consider 200 to the acre moderate distance, it seems as though where it is considerably more expensive to plant so many trees as it means so many more trees to clean a circle around, that in this case, I say, it might be wise to have part of the planting at least with greater distances and more room.

From the shape of the trees, one would imagine that a Ceará tree having, when well shaped, such a dome-like expanse of leaves, would need even more room than the Hevea. The thickness of the trunk is dependent on the number of leaves and the sunlight that gets to them. With this object in view, some planters thumb-prune their young trees, removing the terminal bud when the sapling gets to be 10 feet high or over. This gives rise to two branches, which, after being allowed to grow a short distance, are again thumb-pruned, etc This greatly increases the leaf area and a consequent increase in girth of the trunk results.

CASTILLOA.

With the Castilloa they do differently, planting a number of seeds on hillocks close to each other and gradually thinning out by experimental tappings until they obtain the desired number per acre. However, this is necessary in Castilloa, as many of the Castilloa do not give latex, whereas in Heveas and Ceara, in the right localities and particularly with Heveas. there is a marked uniformity. Often with Castilloas, even with this careful selection barren trees or those which soon become so, are left occasionally.

WEEDING.

There is no doubt that clean weeding is best though expense may prevent it being carried out.

TAPPING.

This is of course most important, and here the greatest advances will come, next to the preparation of the rubber after collection of the latex.

For Hevea, various tapping tools have been devised, with the main object of not cutting into the cambium or growing part of the bark. It matters not whether the sindle V, the herring-bone, modified herring-bone, spiral or what the incision made, the summum bonum is to get the greatest amount of latex with the least loss of bark and the least injury to the cambium.

If the cambium is uninjured or left in strips on the bark new bark will grow up. It has been found best not to tap this new bark the next year, but in two years it can be tapped again, though normally it may not be necessary for a longer period than that.

There is another factor bearing on the subsequent yield of the tree, and that is that the tree suffers from shock when the latex is removed in a large amount which is minimized by the system of multiple tapping to which the Hevea variety lends itself so admirable, and in fact this is one of the things which have contributed in giving it the power of yielding in larger and larger amounts when tapped year after year.

The Ceará promises to do likewise and it is up to us to demonstrate it. The Castilloa yields all at one time and in large quantities, there being much less rubber in the latex according to the coagulation and preparation. The Hevea latex is coagulated in various ways, but most often by acetic acid. The rubber is shipped in pancakes or run through a machine giving crepe rubber or as worm rubber, or best of all, crepe rubber is blocked under pressure so that little of the surface is exposed. In Castilloa the rubber is creamed off after mixing with water.

Vitality of Rubber Seeds.

An important experiment in rubber production has been begun at Nahiku, Maui, in co-operation with a Rubber Company. The growing of rubber-producing trees in Hawaii is not of recent introduction, as isolated trees of a number of the best known varieties are to be found here and there and in some places

small groves exist that have suffered more or less from neglect. A number of Companies have been recently organised for producing rubber, and the one co-operating with the station has set apart 1½ acres of land planted to rubber trees for experiments with fertilizers, variety tests, methods of tapping, preparation of rubber for market, etc. The difficulty of obtaining seeds of rubber trees and the low vitality of some shipments will make the extensive development of this industry rather slow. The station is co-operating with the Territorial Board of Agriculture and Forestry in securing seed of the better known varieties. The question of growing the trees does not need demonstration, but the economic production of rubber remains to be investigated. One or two small groves of Ceará rubber trees large enough for tapping purposes have been located, and arrangements have been made to conduct careful experiments to determine the yield of these trees. These experiments will be extended as opportunity offers.

Rubber Tapping Patterns: The "Chain-gamma."

Mr. C. BODEN KLOSS writes as follows in the *Agricultural Bulletin*, Singapore, for November:—All methods of tapping rubber trees are, one may say, combinations or variations of the oblique incision and probably the two most popular methods in use in Malaya at present are the V and the herring-bone. It is objected, however, to the former that so many cups are required. The latter is frequently to be seen deprecated on account of the central channel which is a mere conductor of latex, being unproductive in itself and wasteful of cortex. It is said also that it lessens the tension of the bark and, therefore, tends to minimise the output of rubber. If such is so with the full herring-bone, how much more proportionately is the vertical channel uneconomical in the case of the half-herring-bone! Examining recently a series of trees tapped by the latter method it appeared to me that if the length and position of the conducting channel were somewhat altered, it could be made both productive of latex and thus less wasteful of bark while, besides, the natural tension would probably remain unaffected. I, therefore, sketched out the following pattern (Fig. 1* the dotted line representing the original vertical channel) of a modified half-herring-bone—I should like to say improved, but from lack of opportunity to test it cannot yet do so—which, if we desire to stick to the alphabet for tapping nomenclature, instead of a number of Roman Vs occupying the tree at intervals, might be described as a column of Greek Ys ascending the trunk—ascending because tapping must be done from base upwards. A very symmetrical pattern that would probably heal rapidly is also obtained by reversing each alternate Y. Having gone so far it was of course obvious that the alteration should be carried to its logical conclusion and thus Fig. 2 was obtained. The basis of the method is itself a very simple pattern, productive throughout all its length. This is a continuous regular zig-zag, but I am not aware that it has been experimented with in this form for the orthodox zig-zag seems to be two oblique cuts joined by a verticle, and so useless, channel. The advantage of the full pattern, however, is that the flow from the lateral projections at once forms a leading stream which is joined by the descending latex from each step above as tapped, and so obviates any likelihood of delay or overflow at the angles. I fancy that the pattern will be found very productive and of value when it is required to obtain a large amount of rubber per tree. The proportion of scrap will probably be small owing to the strong flow of latex throughout; the fluid from above helping to wash down that below and thus differing from the ordinary herring-bone where the latex in the lateral cuts soon begins to coagulate From time to time various tapping patterns have been tried and found unsatisfactory, the single incision, for instance, and the Ceylon spiral which is now being regarded as hardly fulfilling all that was expected of it, and the above ideas will perhaps find a place in the same category, but as I am at present unable to experiment with them myself I should be glad to hear, through your pages, what results have been obtained by any one who thought the notions worthy of a trial.

* *Illustration of Diagram will appear in March Issue.*

Fixation of Nitrogen by Leguminous Crops.

From an article entitled "Recent Progress in the Practice of Green Manuring," which appeared in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, the following particulars, relating to the fixation of nitrogen by leguminous crops, and the advantages of such crops for use in green manuring, have been abstracted by Mr. H. N. Ridley, Director of Botanic Gardens, Straits Settlements:—

Green manuring improves soils on which it is carried out, in several ways. Vegetable organic matter is added, which not only provides plant food, but also improves the mechanical texture of heavy soils, by lightening it, and making it more open. Further, the organic acids produced in the decomposition of this vegetable matter act as solvents upon the soil constituents, and so render more material available for plant nutrition.

Probably, however, the most important advantage consequent upon green manuring is that which follows when a leguminous crop such as peas or beans is the "green manure," for by means of such a crop, nitrogen from the air is fixed, or converted into nitrogenous compounds, and stored up in the soil, where it is available for the succeeding crop.

About twenty-five years ago it was ascertained, as the result of experiment, that leguminous plants were able, under some circumstances, to extract a certain quantity of nitrogen from the air, and to make use of it in their tissue building. The actual method of fixation of the nitrogen, by these plants, however, was not understood till 1886, when Hellriegel and Wilfarth furnished an explanation as the result of experiments and observations made by them. They found that whilst most plants, when raised in sand free from nitrogen contained in the seed itself had been absorbed, seedlings of leguminous plants sometimes continued to develop after passing the stage of dependence upon this reserve of food. Obviously, the nitrogen, these plants daily added to their tissues was supplied by the air, since it could not be obtained from the soil Messrs. Hellriegel and Wilfarth noted however—what had not yet been remarked by other observers—that in all cases where continued growth of the leguminous seedlings did occur, nodules or swellings were to be found on the roots. It was further found that leguminous plants, germinated in sterile sand, soon ceased to grow well, but that if a little water extract of a good cultivated soil was added, the plants recovered, formed nodules on the roots, and also became capable of absorbing nitrogen. These nodules, upon examination, were found to be full of organisms which since the sand in which the plants were growing had been sterilised, could only have been derived from the water extract of the cultivated soil that had been added. It was concluded from these observations that the assimilation of free nitrogen by leguminous plants takes place after the formation of root nodules, which are caused by some organism present in cultivated soil.

These organisms have been isolated, and further observation has shown that the different forms associated with different leguminous plants are all modifications of one species, to which the name *Pseudomonas radicicola*, Beyerinck, has been assigned.

As regards the actual way in which the bacterial organism enables the plant to assimilate nitrogen from the atmosphere, since it has been proved that the organism itself, even when isolated from the plant nodule, can in certain forms, take up nitrogen, and store it up in itself as nitrogenous matter, there seems little doubt that it also absorbs nitrogen in this way when in the nodule.

The present view of the case briefly stated, is that, firstly, the bacterium enters the root of the plant, where its originally minute form changes into a rod-like shape, multiplies, assimilates nitrogen, and stores up nitrogenous compounds, and then finally, in the nodule, the rod-like form changes to the branched form, which is ultimately destroyed by an enzyme, or ferment, produced within the plant. The nitrogenous matter is dissolved and absorbed by the plant, and the nodules gradually diminish in size.

In consequence of this power of leguminous plants to obtain supplies of nitrogen from the air, it is obvious that they are of much greater value for green manuring purposes than non-leguminous crops, as, apart from adding organic matter to the soil, their growth and subsequent ploughing-in are equivalent to the application of an expensive nitrogenous manure, such as sodium nitrate or sulphate of ammonia.

It has been shown that some soils, though capable of growing leguminous crops, are deficient in the specific organisms which enable these crops to assimilate nitrogen. As the result of a complete scientific investigation of the nature and mode of action of the organism, however, the U. S. Department of Agriculture now supply pure cultures of the bacteria in question by which the soil of any given field, or the seed about to be sown, may be inoculated with the nitrogen-fixing organism. It is stated in the *Bulletin* dealing with the above investigation that the following conclusions have been drawn, as the result of the observations made by the Department: Inoculation is not likely to produce any beneficial effect upon soils which already contain the necessary bacteria or upon soils rich in nitrogen or again upon soils which, on account of their acidity, are unsuitable for the growth of leguminous plants. Inoculation is undoubtedly of value where the bacteria do not already exist in the soil, or have lost their activity, as indicated by failure in the growth of leguminous crops and absence of root nodules.

Mr. R. L. Proudlock, Curator, Government Botanic Gardens and Parks, The Nilgiris, has published "A Reference to Notes on Rubber-producing Plants and on Matters relating thereto," in the Annual Administration Reports of the Government Botanic Gardens and Parks, The Nilgiris. This is intended to facilitate reference to such notes on the part of Planters and others. The earliest of the notes appears in the Report for 1877-78 and relates to Ceará Rubber.

Writing in the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits and the Federated Malay States*, Mr. J. B. Carruthers observes that the Rubber shewn at the Peninsular Show this year (1907) exceeded all previous Malayan Exhibitions in quantity and in quality. The Pará sheet and biscuit class contained the greatest number of Exhibits, though crêpe ran it close. In both so many exhibits approached a high standard that the judge found it difficult to separate the prize-winners. Very little of the material, particularly in sheet and biscuit, was of that pale colour which, according to advices from Home, seems to be favoured by buyers just now. Possibly the spell of hot dry weather immediately before the Show had something to do with the prevalence of dark colour. Many Planters consider that light-coloured crêpe or sheet is more difficult to produce in dry weather than at other times. Rubbers other than Pará or Rambong were very poorly represented, though the winning exhibit-crepe from *Willughbeia sp.*—was very good. A good collection of various wild rubbers and seeds came from the Government Gardens, Kuala Kangsar; their Ceará sheet was good in appearance and of fair quality. There are not enough people willing to devote the amount of attention needed for collecting and experimenting on rubbers of comparatively little financial value.

The Stanmore-Anamallai Estates Co., Ld.

At the postponed Annual General Meeting of the Stanmore-Anamallay Estates Co., Ld., held at Hatton House, Hatton, on December 26th, Mr. R. MACLURE (*Managing Director*) took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN said:—I will add some more up-to-date information to that given in the Report. The prospects for the current year (1907-08) are good. The Tea crop is largely in excess of that at the same date last year, and quality is steadily improving. Prices have been good for what has been sold in London, locally and in foreign markets. We propose opening 50 to 100 acres yearly, until the total in Tea aggregates 1,000 acres. The Superintendent reports the Coffee crop to be late, but hopes to secure more than the estimate. Prices for Coffee are better than last year Our estimate of Cardamom crop has been considerably exceeded, and we are now negotiating for its sale at a satisfactory price. I visited the estates in August this year and was much pleased with the progress made, and the excellent growth of all products since my last visit. The shareholders are now in possession of a fine property, at a very moderate cost, which, I hope, will, from 1908 onwards, give them a yearly increasing return for their interest. For this, we are mainly indebted to Mr. Bannatine, who has been enjoying a well-earned holiday at Home, after successfully overcoming difficulties which would have discouraged many men. During Mr. Bannatine's absence Mr. E. W. Simcock has been managing the Company's estates, and the Directors are pleased with the zeal and efficiency he has shown. The estates, when I visited them, were in first-rate order, with an ample labour force on them. Messrs. T. Stanes & Co. have been appointed the Company's Agents in India.

The Reports and Accounts were duly adopted.

Report.

Directors.—Messrs. R. MACLURE (*Managing Director*), C. E. WELLDON and E. J. MARTIN.

The Directors beg to submit their Report and Accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1907. In accordance with the decision arrived at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting held on the 22nd June, 1907, the Company has taken over Monica and half Sirikundra estates, paying the greater part of the purchase-money in fully-paid shares of the Company. The Company's three estates (Stanmore, Monica and Sirikundra) now practically form one block, with its own factory on Monica estate. The Factory is being enlarged to meet the Company's increasing requirements, and additional machinery has had to be purchased and fans have been put up. It has been necessary to call up further capital to meet the expenditure incurred on these items. The Company's total acreage is now approximately as follows:—

Total in Tea	...	672 acres.	
„ Coffee	...	180 „	
„ Cardamoms		319 „	
„ Cinchona	...	10 „	
„ Rubber	...	103 „	(16 acres 7 years old)
„ Forest	...	2,875 „	
Total Acreage	...	4,159 „	

The results of the year worked out approximately at what was estimated. The development of the Company's property has proceeded satisfactorily, but the Directors consider that the time has now come when further opening and planting of land should be limited, so that shareholders may begin to receive a return for their investment. As regards the various products a few short notes may be of interest:—

Tea.—The growth of this product has been most satisfactory and the prospects are promising, especially with the better market and the gradual improvement of the quality of the Tea.

Coffee.—The crop on the trees is a good one, and prices are better than ast year.

Cardamoms—Are bearing well, and the estimate for the season 1907-08 is likely to be exceeded. Prices, too, are satisfactory.

Rubber.—Though the growth is slow compared with Rubber grown at lower elevations, clearings and older trees are all looking healthy. The Estimated Expenditure for the current year, including sums to be expended on Capital Account, amounts to Rs.1,06,050 while crops are estimated to realise Rs.88,400. Mr. O. A. Bannatine is returning from England to take charge of the Company's properties in January, 1908. In terms of the Articles of Association, Mr. C. E. Welldon retires from the Board, and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. The Shareholders will also be asked to confirm the appointment made by the Directors of Mr. E. J. Martin as Director in place of Mr. O. A. Bannatine, who resigned his seat owing to his absence on leave. Mr. F. M. Simpson has audited the Company's Accounts for the year. It will be necessary to appoint an Auditor for 1907-08.

(*By order of the Board of Directors*).

F. LIESCHING, *Secretary.*

HATTON, 1*st December*, 1907.

The Tea Associations, Merchants and Brokers in London are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet, and further deputations have been organized to petition Sir Edward Grey once more with reference to the Russian Preferential Tea Duties. High hopes are now entertained that some satisfactory result may be secured to British-grown tea from these efforts.

The rubber industry of the Territory of Hawaii continues to develop with every sign of promise. It is as yet too soon to regard it as fully established, but everything points to the time when rubber will take its regular place as one of the important "allied industries." Perhaps the most notable event of last year in connection with rubber was the successful convention held at Nahiku, in October, 1907,—"the first rubber convention ever held on American soil" as the papers had it—when was organized the Hawaiin Rubber Growers' Association, with the object of providing an organization which it is hoped will benefit the rubber industry in somewhat the same way that the Hawaiin Sugar Planters' Association has benefitted sugar.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

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The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

Emigration—Straits Settlements.

Dealing with a reference made by the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., the Government of Madras have informed the Postmaster-General and all Collectors that the intention of Government (in G. O., No. 865, Public) was "that posters and circulars regarding emigration to the Straits Settlements already displayed in or outside public buildings on the date of the Government Order should be removed."

Popularization of Coffee.

Mr. John C. Sanderson writes from London, under date the 17th January, 1908:—

> "On Monday last a private interview took place at the London Chamber of Commerce between some of the members of the Special Coffee Committee and Dr. F. Ferreira Ramos, to discuss the action to be taken with regard to the above matter. After explaining the proposed system to be adopted, Dr. Ramos asked that a letter should be addressed to him setting forth the ideas of the Committee, which he undertook to convey to the St. Paulo Government. This has accordingly been done, and for your information I enclose copy of the letter addressed by the London Chamber of Commerce to Dr. Ramos. A reply has been received from the President of the Republic of Columbia to the letter addressed to him by Mr. Climaco Vargas, and the copy of the President's favourable reply is also enclosed for your guidance."

The following are copies of the enclosures referred to:—

I. Letter, dated 17th January, 1908, from the Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce, to Dr. F. Ferreira Ramos, Antwerp:—

With reference to previous correspondence on the above subject and your interview with the Chairman and other members of the Coffee Committee of this Chamber, on Monday last, I now have the pleasure to submit the following brief particulars of the proposed scheme for the propaganda of Coffee consumption in this Market:—

> "*Publicity and Advertising*:—It is suggested that paragraphs setting out the advantages of Coffee as a beverage, and as food, shall be inserted in 1,800 newspapers and 400 weekly and monthly magazines, not in the form of Advertisements, but in such terms as will make the question appear one of general interest,

"A Pamphlet for distribution by Grocers will be printed in large numbers and handed by them to their customers, and suitable show-cards setting forth the special advantages of Coffee as a beverage will be distributed.

"Demonstrations as to the best methods of preparing Coffee will be made at Exhibitions: and Lectures on the subject will also be delivered in the various Associations which are at present used for the technical education of Grocers' Assistants in all matters relating to the improvement of their trade. Prizes will be offered at these Exhibitions for those who prepare in the simplest way the best Coffee, special attention being given to any methods which may simplify the preparation and which can easily be applied for general use. A scheme for interesting the importers and wholesale dealers which would give bonuses on all increases of consumption over an average of the previous three years is contemplated by the Committee, but as this would require special arrangements for the payment of this bonus by the subscribing Governments it cannot be outlined without further consideration between their various representatives and the Committee.

"In regard to the similar propaganda in favour of currants, I am to point out that for an outlay of less than £35,000 in two years the price of all currants sold from Greece has more than doubled, and in England where the advertising has been done, the increase of consumption is 24%. Currants being the principal article of production in Greece, the advantage in other ways to the country, including the increased price realised for currants in the two years is estimated by a competent Greek financier at £16,000,000, as a result of the propaganda.

"It must be understood that the Coffee propaganda cannot be expected to bring satisfactory results on a large scale, unless a similar expenditure to that mentioned as having been incurred in connection with currants is made, and the expenditure of any less sum will more than proportionately reduce the advantages expected to accrue to the producing countries and the Coffee trade generally."

II. Letter, dated 18th January, 1908, from Mr. Climaco Vargas, to the Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce:—

"We have much pleasure in informing you that under date December 7th, His Excellency General Rafael Reyes, President of the Republic of Columbia, writes that he had received our letter regarding the Popularization of Coffee and he fully understands the importance of the matter, and he has instructed Dr. Laureano Parcia Ortiz, President of the Bank of Exporters, who is now on his way to this city, to confer with us and see what would be the best way for the Government of Columbia to help this propaganda.

"As soon as this gentleman arrives in this city we will communicate with you and see if it would be convenient for you to arrange an interview, when we have no doubt this gentleman will be able to propose some plan by which the Government of Columbia will be able to materially help forward this movement."

With reference to the above the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson writes as follows, under date 5th February, 1908:—

"I consider the question of Popularization of Coffee is one of the most important matters before Coffee Planters at present. I have no doubt that the falling-off in consumption in some places and its stationary position in others is due chiefly to the way Tea has been pushed all over the world by advertisement while Coffee has been left to fight its own way. Any scheme, however, must be mainly

supported by the chief Coffee Growing Countries, and without such support we should only be throwing money away, but given a workable scheme showing that money on a large scale will be forthcoming from such countries I think Indian Planters should make every effort to give material support to it.

"I also believe that imaginary difficulties surround the making of Coffee, which complicated coffee pots, etc., serve to increase. If it were generally known that Coffee can be as easily made as tea—by putting it into any vessel with boiling water and after allowing it to stand, pouring it off like tea, it would be much more extensively used. I shall be going to England early in May and if I can be of any use in interviewing Mr. Sanderson or the members of the special Coffee Committee I shall only be too glad to do so."

Subscriptions to the U. P. A. S. I.

With reference to the subject of acreage assessment as a basis for subscriptions of District Planters' Associations to the U. P. A. S. I., which was discussed at the last Annual Meeting of this Association, the Chairman has requested that attention be called to the fact that at a General Meeting of the Wynaad Planters' Association held on the 15th January the principle of an acreage assessment to meet the subscription to the U. P. A. S. I was accepted, on the understanding that the other Associations also accept it. Details were left for settlement in August.

The original suggestion emanated from Travancore, and Associations there have manifested a keen interest in it and a readiness to join hands with other Districts in respect to its adoption.

Several Associations have now decided in favour of the new scheme, which is expected to be fully discussed at the next Annual Meeting of the U. P A. S. I.

It is estimated that an assessment of 8 pies per acre under cultivation would fully meet the necessities of the U. P. A. S. I., and this rate might be adopted as a basis in any discussion that may take place at meetings of District Planters' Associations.

Rubber Lands in Mysore.

Proceedings of the Mysore Government commenting on the Resolution of the U. P. A. S. I. to the effect that the position of prospective Rubber planters in Mysore is unsatisfactory and that the disabilities under which the Rubber planting industry is labouring should be removed, read as follows:—

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

READ—Letter dated the 31st August, 1907, from the Secretary to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, forwarding copy of the resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the Association held in the beginning of the same month, to the effect that the position of prospective rubber planters in Mysore is unsatisfactory, and that the Government should remove the disabilities under which the rubber planting industry is at present labouring.

2. Letter from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Camp No. 62, dated the 22nd September, 1907, submitting the statements received from the Deputy Commissioners of the Hassan and Kadur Districts, giving particulars of the applications for lands for rubber cultivation granted, refused and pending disposal.

No. R. 4695-9—L. R. 98-07-5, dated Bangalore, 27th January, 1908.

ORDER THEREON.—It is not clear from the representation what the precise nature of the grievance is, which the North and South Mysore Planters' Associations desire to bring to the notice of Government in the working of the existing rules relating to the grant of lands for rubber cultivation. These rules were first issued under Government proceedings No. R. 3474-84—L. R. 226-06-1, dated the 28th September, 1906. They were subsequently modified by Government Order No. R. 9358-69—L. R 226-06-11, dated the 18th April, 1907, so as to permit alienations under certain conditions with the object of enabling applicants to raise the necessary capital. In order to afford to intending applicants an opportunity of knowing what lands would be granted, the Conservator of Forests was directed to publish in the Gazette, lists of all lands which it was considered necessary to reserve in the interests of the Forest Department. This the Conservator has done. With a view to afford further facilities to applicants, Government have also directed in their Order No. R. 9153-62—L. R. 226-06-9, dated the 10th April, 1907, that in case applications are made for lands included in the list of reserved lands so published, the Deputy Commissioners should report such cases to Government with the reasons for reserving such lands, so that they might decide whether the lands could be given out for rubber cultivation without detriment to the forest interests of Government.

2. From the lists submitted by the Revenue Commissioner, Government find that, in the following cases, applications were rejected in the interests of forest conservancy :—

Taluk.	Name of Applicant.	Extent, etc., of land applied for.		Village in which it is situated.	Why rejected.
		A.	g.		
Chikmagalur.	1. Captain Lethbridge.	500	0	Heggarmathivani ...	Included in the Gangegiri Block notified for reservation in 1901 under Section 4 of the Forest Regulation.
	2. Mr. Douglas Meppen	500	0	Do. ...	
	3. Mr. H. Allardice & three others ...	1,177	29	Do. ..	
	4. Mr. H. W. Raiks	500	0	Do. ...	
	5. Mr. W. L. Crawford	500	0	Siragula ...	
	6. Mr. C. S. Crawford	100	0	Do. ...	
Mudgere.	7. Mr. L. P. Kent and two others .	1,500	0	Bhyrapura...	When the lands were applied for in September 1906, they had been proposed to be included in the Balur Block, the reservation of which was notified in March 1907.
	8. Mr. R. W. Franklin	18	39	Neradi ...	Situated in the midst of a healthy sandal zone.
		22	1	Hatchadmane ...	
		32	4	Kolgodu ...	

Taluk.	Name of Applicant.	Extent, etc. of land applied for.	Village in which it is situated.	Why rejected.
Yedahalli Sub-Taluk.	9. Mr. H. Pilkington Mr. H. Edgington	S. Nos. 27 & 28 Part of S. Nos. 32, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 42 ... S. Nos. 45 and 46 ...	Hebbe ... Nandigam .. Yedahalli ...	Proposed to be included in the Hebbe Block, the reservation of which has not yet been notified.

The Conservator of Forests states that the lands included in the Gangegiri reserved block are well wooded, containing a fine growth of jambe, matti, nandi and other valuable species; that the compactness of the block would be seriously affected by the grant of the area applied for; that the area included in the Balur reserved block is a dense ever-green forest containing ebony and other valuable trees; and that the grant of such lands is also prohibited by Government Order No. R. 3474-84—L. R. 226-06-1 of the 28th September, 1906.

As regards the lands intended to be included in the Hebbe Block, the reservation of which has not yet been notified, the Conservator states that Mr. Pilkington has been informed that there is no objection to the grant of Survey Nos. 27 and 28 of Hebbe and of that portion of Survey Nos. 37 and 42 which is situated between the Hebbe-Chikmagalur road and Samavahini river, embracing in all an area of about 300 acres; and that the other lands cannot be granted as they contain valuable timber.

3. The majority of the above applications were, however, rejected prior to the issue of the Government Order of the 10th April, 1907, referred to above. If in any of these cases the applicants are still not satisfied with the grounds on which their applications have been rejected, Government will, on a proper representation being made, be prepared to consider each individual case separately on the lines laid down in the Government Orders.

4. From the statements referred to above, it is observed that prior to the issue of the Government Order of the 28th September, 1906, there had been received 11 applications in the Hassan District and 26 applications in the Kadur District for the grant of lands for rubber cultivation. Out of the 11 received in the former district, 8 have been withdrawn, 2 applications for 120 acres and 32 guntas have been sanctioned and one applicant for 85 acres having requested that the land might be granted to him for coffee cultivation, the Revenue Commissioner has issued orders for the disposal of the same by sale. Out of the 26 received in the latter district, 5 applications have been withdrawn, 1 has been ordered by the Revenue Commissioner to be returned on the ground that the applicant has asked for the land being granted to him for coffee cultivation, *11 applications for about 4,850 acres have been rejected, 7 applications for about 2,045 acres have been granted and 2 applications from one applicant are pending the receipt of certain information called for from him.

5. Out of the 11 applications received in the Hassan District subsequent to the issue of the order of 28th September, 1906, 2 have been withdrawn, 1 application for 12 acres and 32 guntas has been rejected on the objection of the villagers about the insufficiency of the gomal land, another for 79 acres and 34 guntas has also been rejected by the Revenue Commissioner but no reasons have been given, 1 application for 40 acres has been sanctioned and 6 applications are pending (4 with the Amildar, 1 with the District Forest Officer, and 1 with the applicant). Out of the same number of applications, *viz.*, 11 received in the Kadur District, 4 have been withdrawn, 1 has been partly rejected on the ground that the portion of the land contains valuable timber, 3 applications and part of another application are pending

* Extent not mentioned in 3 cases.

(2 with the District Forest Officer and the rest with the Amildar for enquiry and report).

6. The Conservator of Forests states that no lands were reserved after applications for the same had been received, and also points out that the difficulty to obtain suitable lands for rubber cultivation is chiefly due to the fact that all available and suitable lands have already been taken up for coffee cultivation.

7. It will thus be seen that the rules themselves provide sufficient facilities for obtaining lands which may be required for cultivation and which may be granted without detriment to the other interests of Government. The Government have also repeatedly impressed on their officers the importance of speedy disposal of all such applications. Government have no doubt that the planters themselves will admit that there are areas, the reservation of which on climatic and other grounds must be paramount to every other consideration and that it would be inexpedient to issue any general rules regarding the grant of lands included in forest reserves. The safest course is to consider each case on its own merits. Government are always prepared to entertain favourably applications for lands, the grant of which will not be detrimental to the interests of forest conservancy or the preservation of springs at the head-waters of streams, or be attended with any serious physical effects.

8. It is noted that the application pending with the District Forest Officer, Hassan, is dated the 21st November, 1906, and that those pending with District Forest Officer, Kadur, are dated October, 1906. The officers concerned should be asked to expedite the submission of their reports. They must be instructed to pay prompt attention to applications for land for rubber cultivation. Of the 4 applications pending with the Taluk Officers in the Hassan District, 2 are nearly a year old and the others were received in April and May 1907. Of the 2 pending with the Amildars in the Kadur District, 1 was received in October 1906 and the other in July 1907. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue needful instructions for the speedy disposal of these applications.

The Theni Bridge.

The Madras Government have passed the following order:—

> "In view of the proposal of the District Board, Madura, to construct a line of railway from Ammayanaikanur to Uttamapalaiyam, the Government regret that they are unable to comply with the request of the United Planters' Association of Southern India that the District Board of Madura should be required to undertake the construction of a road bridge over the Theni river."

The Legislative Council of Fort St. George.

Voting for the nomination of a successor to the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson as "Planting Member" of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George resulted in favour of the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., Mr. C. E. Abbott. His name has therefore been submitted to the Government of Madras, in the hope that the privilege of representation long enjoyed by the Planting community will be continued.

Rubber Exhibitions.

It is said that the Rubber Trades Exhibition which opens at the Agricultural Hall, London, on the 21st September, is intended to awaken interest and prepare the public for the greater exhibition which is to follow, during 1909 probably, and the leading spirits in the promotion of which are Messrs. Herbert Wright and Hamel Smith. Brazil intends holding an exhibition at Earl's Court in 1909, the Chief Commissioner for the Propagation and Expansion of Brazilian Interests Abroad having left for London to make the necessary arrangements. The fact of Brazil having a grand National Exhibition in Rio in 1908 will facilitate matters greatly, as the vast majority of the exhibits could be transferred from this exhibition to Earl's Court.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

The Quarterly General Meeting was held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on Monday, January 13th, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. C. DICKINS, W. RAHM, S. CAMPBELL, E. DICKINS, W. T. LECHLER, F. D. SHORT, C. RAHM, C. G. LECHLER, S. M. HIGHT, J. C. LARGE, C. A. G. TURNER, and B. CAYLEY (*Chairman & Honorary Secretary*).

ACCOUNTS.

These show a balance in hand on December 31st of Rs.156-8-3.

MEMBERSHIP.

One member has resigned and 2 new members have joined, which brings the subscribing estates up to 34.

POLICE IN CROP TIME.

Resolved—that the Honorary Secretary address the Superintendent of Police, Salem, drawing his attention to the fact that the arrangement of posting of special constables as suggested by this Association has been utterly disorganized in that the cordon of Police carefully worked out by this Association and sanctioned by the Superintendent of Police was not carried out.

FEEDER ROADS.

(*a*) *Resolved*—that the Honorary Secretary be requested to address the Executive Engineer, Salem, and ask him, when calling for tenders for the Feeder Road, whether these tenders cannot be allotted for 3 years instead of one as is usual under the A. system.

(*b*) *Resolved*—that the attention of the Executive Engineer, Salem, be drawn to the very bad condition of the Irish drain on the Feeder Road, and that, though we understand that funds have been sanctioned for converting these into culverts, no work has yet been commenced.

(Signed) BERNARD CAYLEY, *Chairman.*

Proceedings of a Committee Meeting held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on February 3rd, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. J. C. LARGE, C. RAHM, F. D. H. SHORT, C. A. G. TURNER, S. M. HIGHT, C. G. LECHLER, and B. CAYLEY (*Chairman & Honorary Secretary*).

SUBSCRIPTION TO U. P. A. S. I.

READ Circular No. 10/08 from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., and reiterated our resolve to support an acreage assessment not exceeding 8 pies per cultivated acre.

The acreage so far as can be ascertained at present is 4,007 and the new subscription at 8 pies per acre would amount to Rs.166-15-4, or only Rs.16-15-4 more than we pay at present.

FEEDER ROADS.

Resolved—that the Collector be addressed, with reference to the completion of the Feeder Road, that the correspondence on the matter be sent him for his information, and that he be asked to kindly interest himself in the completion of these roads as they are an urgent necessity.

LETTERS, &C.

READ letter from Mr. Nicholson, undated, complaining that the Malyalie come to work later than they used to.

Resolved—that the matter be deferred to the next General Meeting.

(Signed) BERNARD CAYLEY, *Chairman.*

The Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting held at Kutikal Bungalow, Mundakayam, Travancore, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 22nd, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. L. W. GREY, K. E. NICOLL, J. A. RICHARDSON, F. VERNEDE, H. DRUMMOND DEANE, H. B. KIRK, P. MADDEN, C. VERNEDE, and H. S. HOLDER (*Chairman & Honorary Secretary*).

Read Notice calling the Meeting.

Proceedings of last Meeting were taken as read and were confirmed. The Chairman, in rising to open the Meeting, made the following remarks:—

GENTLEMEN,

In reviewing the past year, it is pleasing to be able to record a steady advancement of Planting enterprise in the District. Where at this time last year we had 3,095 acres of planted rubber we now have 5,493 acres and 1,761 acres of further clearings have been registered for 1908, so that our cultivated area will amount to 7,254 acres.

The whole of this area, less than three years ago, was a wilderness and practically impenetrable; it is encouraging to notice the springing up of cheerful red-roofed buildings and the opening up of roads throughout the District.

It is to be hoped that during the coming year His Highness's Government will see its way to be more generous in the matter of roads.

The road to Kutikal will doubtless in time be constructed, and I consider that all cartable road extensions to Estates, even though they may at present in the main only serve the Planter, should receive grants throughout towards their up-keep.

These roads all help to open up the country and soon become used by every individual, both official and otherwise, and it does not seem fair that because we are there first and have opened up these roads, that we should bear the entire cost of up-keep for ever.

There has been a considerable decline in the value of Rubber during the year and it behoves us all to look to the advisability of further extensions and to the ways and means of meeting a possible further depression.

We have been assured that certain conditions and restrictions in regard to our holding land will be improved and removed.

It has been a great pleasure to us all to see the British Resident amongst us, and that he has been able himself to see the progress of our work, and result of our efforts.

The keen interest displayed by him in his untiring efforts to become personally acquainted with the country and conditions under which we are working was most encouraging.

Mr. Carr inspected the line of Kutikal road and rode round a considerable area of Rubber at Mundakayam.

We should not leave the subject of our visitors, without showing our appreciation of the energy displayed by the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam, who has visited Mundakayam and gone much among the Estates in the vicinity. We welcome him as the first Dewan Peishkar who has penetrated into the surrounding country and shown an interest in our undertakings.

Honorary Secretary's Notes.

MEMBERSHIP.

There are 11 Estates registered in the rolls of the Association during 1907, representing 5,493 acres under cultivation. Our subscription for the past year has been at the rate of 10 cents. per acre on 5,493 acres, yielding a revenue of Rs.549-4-0. For 1908 we have 12 Estates registered with an area of 7,254 acres, a similar Cess this year would therefore yield Rs.725-6-3.

Accounts will show you that there is a small balance of Rs.132-1-9 in hand.

It has been proposed to base our subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. on an acreage Cess and this subject will come before you to-day.

The year has seen the establishment of a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Mundakayam, there is now a postman at the office and there should be no longer any delay in the delivery of telegrams previously complained of.

The boundary of the jurisdiction of the Cardamom Hill Magistrate is, I believe, a matter that *still remains unsettled.*

Sri Mullam Delegate.

Your interests were ably represented and watched by Mr. H. M. Knight whose Notes I will read to you directly. I do not think there is anything further for me to record. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind patience and during the past year and have now but to place my resignation in your hands.

READ Mr. H. M. Knight's Notes on the Sri Mullam P. A.

Resolved—that the thanks of the Association be tendered to Mr. Knight for representing the Association.

Correspondence.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed, to reply to the Chief Engineer's No. 31 of 13th January, 1908, pointing out more clearly what was required in the matter of permission to occupy P. W. D. sheds; also to write to the Chief Engineer requesting that the necessary servants and furniture be established at Mundakayam, pending the building being in other respects made a first-class travellers' bungalow.

The Residency Lease as a Sanitarium Scheme.

Resolved—that the scheme be left in the hands of the Sub-Committee for further discussion, and that Mr. K. E. Nicoll be requested to act on the Committee in place of Mr. Harley.

Medical.

The scheme for the employment of a European doctor jointly between the Districts of Peermade and Mundakayam was discussed, and Mr J. A. Richardson produced figures dealing with the subject. No decision was come to in the matter.

Finance and Subscription.

After figures in this connection had been explained by the Honorary Secretary, it was resolved to continue the Cess of 10 cents. per acre on the newly declared area of 7,254 acres.

U. P. A. S. I. Subscription.

Resolved—that this Association agrees to paying subscription to the Parent Association on an acreage basis not exceeding 8 pies per acre on its whole area, although none is at present in bearing.

Election of Office-bearers.

The election of Office-bearers resulted as follows:—

MR. J. A. RICHARDSON.—*Chairman.*
" K. E. NICOLL.—*Vice-Chairman.*
" H. B. KIRK.—*Honorary Secretary.*
" H. DRUMMOND DEANE
" L. W. GREY
" B. WOLDE
} *Committee.*

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) H. S. HOLDER, *Chairman & Honorary Secretary.*

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held at Meppadi Club on 12th February, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. C. E. ABBOTT, E. A. HUGHES, D. L. MCCARRISON, W. R M. MCKENZIE, W. MACKINLAY, H. PARRY, S. H. POWELL (JNR.), A. TROLLOPE, A. WEST, and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. A. TROLLOPE in the Chair.

Proceedings of last Meeting were confirmed.

1336. *New Members.*—Mr. W. R. M. McKenzie re-joined the Association on return to the District.

1337. Read *General Correspondence.*—Approved.

1338. *Telegraph Office, Devala.*—Read letter from Director-General of Telegraphs with enclosed correspondence, informing the Association no proposal to close the Devala Combined Office has been received. Recorded.

1338. *Planting Member of Council.*—The Association notes with regret that the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson is unable to accept the nomination to again serve as Planting Member of the Legislative Council, Fort St. George Madras, and wishes to record its great appreciation of the valuable services rendered during his tenure of office extending over so long a period.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write asking him to allow the Association to continue his name on the list of Honorary Members.

1339. *Export of Tea from Calicut.* -With reference to enquiry made at last Meeting of the Association, the Honorary Secretary informed Members that statistics for June, 1907, had not been received, but excluding that month 3,153,657 lbs. of Tea were exported from Calicut during 1907. Recorded.

1340. *Attesting of Contracts.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask that Messrs. G. H. Welchman and W R. M. McKenzie be authorised to witness Labour Contracts under Act I of 1903.

1341. *Roads—Cart-tires.*—Read letter from President, District Board. The Association still considers one ton is not an excessive load for the roads during fair weather. The Honorary Secretary to reply and explain matters.

1342. *Coffee Passes.*—The Members of this Association having considered the proposals made by Shevaroy Planters' Association regarding passes under the Coffee Stealing Act, think that in Wynaad, owing to small area of Coffee under native proprietors, the extra trouble involved in obtaining passes from the Tahsildar, would not be compensated by any particular advantage to themselves.

1343 *Thefts of Tea.*—The question of the stealing of Tea was discussed with Mr. McCarrison, Superintendent of Police, North Malabar, and it was resolved—

That all producers of Tea in Wynaad be asked to join in a system by which passes will be issued in all cases when Tea is issued, despatched, moved or sold from any Factory, in the same way as is done with Coffee on estates.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to issue Circulars explaining the system and asking definite adherence to the Scheme. It was left to his discretion to ask such Nilgiri Producers to co-operate as he thinks advisable.

1344. *Police.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Superintendent of Police, North Malabar, asking that Special Police Force employed under Coffee Stealing Act be also utilized for prevention of theft of Pepper and Tea, and that they be employed permanently in Wynaad, as the acreage under Tea is to be largely increased in the near future and their services will be necessary considering extension of duties required of them.

1345. *Police.*—The Association understands it is proposed to do away with Meppadi as an investigating centre, and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Superintendent of Police, asking that the proper authorities be addressed in the matter, the extent of acreage under Tea being likely to be enormously increased and the European community larger in consequence.

1346. *Reward Fund.*—Resolved that the Honorary Secretary send round asking for subscriptions towards a Fund to grant rewards to Police and informers for services rendered in detection and prevention of, thefts of Coffee, Tea and Pepper.

A cordial vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. McCarrison for his attendance advice and assistance.

1347. *Papers, etc., on the Table.*—U. P. A. Circular Nos. 4 to 14.
I. T. A. Circular Nos. 23 and 24.
Tea Statistics, December, 1907.
Rubber Producing Plants by R. L. Proudlock.
I. Tea Cess Circular No. 14.
E. Bengal and Assam *Gazette*, 15th January, 1908.
Medal and Certificate from Cannanore Exhil ition.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) ALFRED TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

The Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a General Meeting held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on Friday, the 14th February, 1908.

Present:—Messrs The Hon'ble H. P. HODGSON, A. F. VANS AGNEW, L. C. LIEBENROOD, A. M. KINLOCK, H. D. WILBRAHAM, J. HARDING PASCOE, W. C. DEANE, P. M. SATHASIVA MUDALIAR, F. M. COCKBURN, E. HARDY, T. M. ARUMUGAM PILLAY, L. E. BUCKLEY, and C. H. BROCK (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. J. H. PASCOE was voted to the Chair.

1. The proceedings of the last Meeting were read and confirmed after previous circulation.

2. *Popularization of Coffee.*—Read U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 11 of 1908, dated 4th February, 1908. The following Resolution was carried:—"That this Association is strongly of the opinion that if Coffee-producing countries adequately support any feasible scheme for the popularization of Coffee, every assistance should be rendered to such scheme by Coffee Planters of Southern India."

3. *Press Quotations.*—Read U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 59 of 1907, dated 12th October, 1907. The Meeting regretted that this Association could not subscribe to special Press quotations as suggested by the Shevaroy Planters' Association.

4. *Scientific Officer's Scheme.*—Read U. P. A S. I. Circular No. 5 of 1908, dated 14th January, 1908. The Meeting recorded that this Association has already arranged that its subscription towards this scheme shall be for five years as requested by the Government of Madras.

5. *The Indian Tea Cess.*—The Meeting recorded with satisfaction that the Indian Tea Cess was to be continued for another period of five years.

6. *Coffee Passes.*—With reference to Shevaroy Planters' Association's suggestion to adopt a system of compulsory passes for the removal of Coffee, the Meeting was of the opinion that as local requirements varied, a compulsory pass for every District would prove cumbersome and unnecessary.

7. *Indian Legislative Council.*—With reference to G. O., No. 886, dated 22nd November, 1907, the Meeting expressed the desire that the Planting community should continue to be represented on the Legislative Councils.

8. *Subscription to the U. P. A. S. I.*—Read U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 12 of 1908, dated 6th February, 1908. The following Resolution was passed:—"That this Association will be prepared to pay a subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. on a basis of 8 pies per acre under cultivation on the area represented by its members."

9. *Madras Planters' Labour Act.*—The Meeting considered that it would be advisable for the Honorary Secretaries of the Wynaad Planters' Association and Nilgiri Planters' Association and the Planting Member to meet in Ootacamund to discuss the difficulties that have arisen in April next.

10. *Solicitor for the Association.*—Read Mr. McKenzie's letter dated 31st January, 1908. The Meeting considered that the scheme suggested was not feasible owing to the expense that it might incur, but pointed out that in cases of necessity the Association is always prepared to give its moral support in any deserving case which might be referred to it.

11. *Damage done by Toda Buffaloes.*—Read Mr. J. McKenzie's letter dated 24th October, 1907. The Meeting was of the opinion that in such cases action under Cattle Trespass Act should be taken against the person or persons who liberate the cattle from the pound, the name of whom can be easily ascertained from the pound Register.

12. *Sale of Tea in India.*—Read Messrs. Vijiam and Co.'s letter dated 16th September, 1907, and enclosure. The Honorary Secretary was directed to print and circulate the same to all Planters.

13. Read Mr. Mullaly's letter dated 12th November, 1907, and 30th December, 1907. The Meeting accepted Mr. W. Mullaly's resignation with regret, but wished to point out that this Association has no official control over the Nilgiri District Board in the allotments or its money for the up-keep of roads.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and to Lieut. C. M. G. Plumer for the loan of the Armoury Room, terminated the proceedings.

(Sd.) CHARLES H. BROCK,
Honorary Secretary,
Nilgiri Planters' Association.

A report of the transactions on the Coffee Exchange of the city of New York, for the year 1907, has been compiled by Superintendent C. B. Stroud. It shows that the sales for the year were 10,555,260 bags, compared with 18,112,500 bags for 1906. The highest price paid for futures was in March, when the May, 1907, delivery sold at 6·70 cents. The lowest price for futures was in January, when that month sold for 5·03 cents.

The highest quotation during the year for No. 7 Coffee, the standard grade, was 7⅜ cents, and the lowest 5⅛ cents. Rio and Santos crops for the year ended June 30, 1907, were 19,654,000 bags.

Margins to the extent of $15,391,843 were deposited during 1907, compared with $16,095,245 the previous year.

In a Planting District in Ceylon fields of Rubber of some standing are being interplanted with *Tea.* It is argued that the young Tea can do no harm to the Rubber, for several years if at all; and that it will be a case of "two strings to one's bow";—and then Tea is paying low-country Planters so splendidly at present.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extracts from Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on 4th February, 1908, with MR. G. KINGSLEY *in the Chair.*

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters of 10th and 17th January from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, which had been previously circulated, were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subjects dealt with in these letters were:—

Assam Labour.—In view of the recent notifications under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act VI of 1901 relaxing the conditions of sirdari recruitment, the London Association invited the opinion of the General Committee as to whether the local Associations should not frame rules to prevent coolies recruited in terms of these notifications—*i.e.*, coolies brought up without agreement—being enticed away from the gardens for which they were recruited.

It was agreed that the views of the Branch Associations should be asked on the question referred to by Sir James Buckingham.

Franco-British Exhibition.—A Prospectus of the British Indian section of this Exhibition has been received, and the London Committee asked that circulars should be issued by this Association inviting members to forward exhibits of different kinds of tea.

The General Committee were of opinion that it was too late to ask for exhibits on this side, as the season is now over, and they thought that samples would require to be obtained in London. As exhibits must be delivered to the Indian section before 15th April it would be too early for any new season's Tea to be forwarded.

Presentation to Dr. Mann.—Mention was made in the Proceedings of 10th December, 1907, to the presentation made to Dr. Mann before he left on furlough in June last prior to severing his connection, as Scientific Officer with the Association, and it was then arranged that with the unexpended balance subscribed a piece of plate should be purchased for him. While Dr. Mann was here he chose a silver tea set, and this was forwarded to him at Poona.

The Secretary now read a letter of acknowledgment from Dr. Mann, which the following is an extract:—

> "I have safely received, this week, the box containing the silver tea service, of which I am, and shall always be, extremely proud. Will you please convey my thanks again to the Tea Association Committee, now that the testimonial which they organised is complete? I shall always remember my association with the tea industry as one of the happiest periods of my life, and I am only too pleased that the work I have been able to do has been found of use by those who actually have to grow and prepare the product. I hope that the Department, of which I was for so long the chief, may be found continually of greater and greater utility by the industry, now that it is directed by other hands. With again my most sincere and heartfelt thanks," etc.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT LABORATORY.

As arranged at last meeting, Mr. Hutchinson had been asked whether the accommodation proposed by the Trustees of the Indian Museum for the housing of the offices of the Department would be sufficient and in a letter of 31st January Mr. Hutchinson wrote that he had inspected the suggested premises and thought they would be satisfactory.

The Trustees were to be informed accordingly.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Committee, at the request of the London Association, asked Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co. if their London house would be willing to undertake the sale of the Scientific Department publications in London, as there are frequent enquiries there for the pamphlets, and in a letter of 1st February they replied that their London firm agreed to do so. It was accordingly arranged that 10 copies of each of the publications still available should be sent to Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co. to be forwarded by them to London.

Report of the General Committee.

For the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The following extracts are taken from the above Report:—

Indian Tea Cess Committee.

It is not necessary in this Report to refer at length to the efforts that have been made by the Indian Tea Cess Committee during the past year to promote the sale and increase the consumption of Indian tea in foreign markets. In the United States the work has been energetically prosecuted with, the General Committee think, conspicuous success, and the Special Commissioner for Europe has had a successful year. The bonus on exports of green tea has been continued at the rate of six pies per pound. The Act under which the Cess was instituted was for five years, and this period comes to an end on 31st March, 1908, but the Committee are glad to learn that the Government of India have decided to continue a measure which they think has been productive of great good to the industry The opinion of the Association on the matter was invited by the Tea Cess Committee in April last, and they circulated members for their views, and also asked an expression of the opinion of the two Branch Associations ; the replies received were unanimously in favour of a continuance. . . . .

Scientific Department.

The year under review has been an important one for this Department. The outstanding event was the resignation by Dr. H H. Mann of his post as Chief Scientific Officer on his being appointed in May last Principal of the Government Agricultural Training College, Poona, his seven years' service of the Association, Dr Mann has done work the value of which it is impossible to over-estimate, and the tea industry is indebted to him for organizing a Scientific Department and directing its administration with such unqualified success. The commencement of such a Department was, it need hardly be said, no easy matter, but Dr. Mann's high attainments and his thorough and business-like methods soon proved that he realised to the full the directions in which the Department could perform work of permanent value The General Committee feel that in having Dr. Mann as their first Scientific Officer and the organizer of the Department, they were peculiarly fortunate, for the importance of the work that has been carried out, and is still going on, and the efficiency of the Department at the present time, are due to his thoughtful and painstaking efforts. While, therefore, they heard with pleasure that Dr. Mann had been appointed to his present post, they were at the same time deeply sensible that in bidding him farewell the industry was sustaining a heavy loss. It was felt, when Dr. Mann intimated his resignation, that it would be fitting to present him with some tangible token of the regard and esteem in which he was held by all connected with the industry. Members of the Association and also of the different Planting Associations in this part of India were accordingly invited to join in a presentation; the hearty response to this request from all quarters was most gratifying, and the Committee were enabled to present to Dr. Mann an illuminated address, which was enclosed in a handsome silver casket, and, in addition, a valuable piece of plate.

Dr. Mann was succeeded by Mr. C. M. Hutchinson, B. A., who was for three years the Assistant Scientific Officer of the Association, and the Committee look forward with confidence to his carrying on the work with ability and success. Mr. C. B. Antram is in charge of the Entomological Laboratory at Kanny Koori. Mr Hutchinson's place as Assistant Scientific Officer has been filled by the appointment of Dr. G. D. Hope, formerly Assistant Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at Liverpool University. Dr. Hope is B.Sc. of Liverpool, and Victoria Universities, and he also holds the Ph. D. Degree of Halle University. He arrived in India towards the end of December and is now in charge of the Experimental Station at Heeleaka.

During the year many valuable investigations have been carried out by the Department, although the work has necessarily been somewhat restricted owing to Dr. Mann's having been away since the beginning of June and Mr. Hutchinson's having to remain at Heeleaka throughout. Chemical analyses have been made in the Laboratory of various kinds of tea soils, and it is expected that these will prove of great value in the future experimental work of the Department; microscopic examinations of fungoid and several other blights have also been made. Mr. Hutchinson has been engaged on several important enquiries, among them being an investigation into the causes of the "cheesy" taint sometimes noticeable in tea; it had been found that the taint exists in different kinds of chests and Mr. Hutchinson has made an exhaustive enquiry in connection with the seasoning of timber used in the construction of tea boxes. The routine work of plucking, pruning, &c., has gone on as usual at Heeleaka. In the report on the work of the Department to the beginning of August Mr. Hutchinson drew attention to the figures of the yield of the leaf from the experimental plots; these showed that the theory of the application of manures at such a level as to introduce new development of roots from the already established root system instead of from above this level, as in the application of top dressing oilcake and cattle manure around the stems, has much to recommend it, as the increase in yield on these plots was very marked. The pruning experiments were interesting as showing a marked increase in those plots on which the Baghjan style of pruning, first advocated by Sir James Buckingham, was adopted.

In the Entomological Department the investigations in connection with the different pests affecting tea have been continued. Mr. Antram has been engaged throughout the year on enquiries into the life-history and habits of such pests as the "sandwich caterpillar," green fly, white ants, and "bark-eating borers." The results of the work of the last-named species were published in a pamphlet on the subject by Mr. Antram in December. Extensive experiments have also been made at Kanny Koori with different kinds of sprayers for treating bushes, and these are still going on.

One of the most important enquiries conducted by the Department has been that on "Mosquito Blight." This subject has been under consideration for a considerable time, and the blight is recognised to be the most injurious which tea has to contend with. It appeared in a particularly severe form in a portion of the Dooars in August last, and, at the request of the Committee, Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Antram proceeded there to make a thorough examination. As a consequence of their visit, Mr. Antram has since been engaged in an exhaustive study of the history and habits of the mosquito; as the Kanny Koori laboratory is situated in a district which is affected by the blight he has had excellent opportunities for studying the different phases. In view of the peculiar prevalence of the blight in certain tracts of the Dooars, the Committee requested Mr. Antram to again visit this district in January and continue his enquiries there, and it is hoped that the result of the efforts of the department will be to enable Managers to take effective steps for coping with the ravages of the mosquito.

The General Committee desire to express their thanks to all those in different parts of the tea districts who have given the department such ready assistance throughout the year, and they venture to express the hope that planters will always be willing to offer their views on any matters under consideration. They are particularly indebted to the local advisory Committees on the Heeleaka and Kanny Koori experimental stations.

The publications of the department during the year have been, in addition to short reports, "The Fermentation of Tea, Part II," "Experiments in Heavy Pruning," "The Factors which determine the quality of Tea," and "The Heeleaka Experimental Station," by Dr. Mann, and "The Bark-eating Borers of Tea," by Mr. Antram. Dr. Mann has also issued a most important work on the 'Tea Soils of North-East India and their treatment," which has just been made available to members and which is a *resumé* of the practical results of his investigations during the seven years in which he was the Association's Chief Scientific Officer. This includes the result of the enquiries made in connection with the Tea soils of the Dooars and the publication of the complete work was foreshadowed in the Committee's last Annual Report.

Statistics of Tea Production.

In the last Annual Report it was mentioned that the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence had requested the views of the Committee on a question in connection with the form of return filled in by planters, on which the statistical statement of the production of tea in India is based. Certain discrepancies in the statistics of areas had been noticed, and it was thought that these might be the result of some confusion in regard to two headings in the form, under which planters were asked to state the areas respectively under "mature plants" and "immature plants." It was also reported that after consultation with the Local Associations, the Committee suggested that these headings should be omitted and in their place two columns substituted, respectively headed "plants upwards of three years old" and "plants of three years old and under." In April the Director-General informed the Committee that a careful scrutiny had been made of the returns received from one of the principal districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam, from which it appeared that, while the figures reported to district officers as regards production and the total area under tea were substantially accurate, the columns relating to "old cultivation abandoned" and "new lands planted out" and also those headed "mature plants" and "immature plants," presented some difficulty. In these circumstances, he thought it desirable to revise the form of report, and he submitted for the consideration of the committee a draft revised form. In this draft the area under cultivation was divided into two parts—"area which has been plucked during the year," and "area which has not been plucked." After consultation with the London Committee and the local Associations and as the result of further correspondence with the Director-General, an amended form suggested by him was approved by the General Committee. A copy of this form is printed in the Appendix, and it will be observed that it differs in several ways from that formerly issued; it gives effect to the Director-General's proposals to have columns for "area which has been plucked" and "area which has not been plucked," and several alterations have been made in the headings for the columns relating to area; and the column for stating the quantity in lbs. of uncured leaf has been dropped. It is expected that the information which will be obtained from this revised form will be more useful and accurate than was the case with the superseded form of return.

Optional Bills of Lading.

Reference was made in the last Report to the difficulty of obtaining accurate statistics in regard to teas shipped under Optional Bills of Lading, and it was mentioned that negotiations were in progress for procuring figures monthly from the London Custom House showing the actual destination of all such teas consigned to the United Kingdom; formerly large quantities were entered here as exports to America, the greater part of which was, as a matter of fact, landed in London, so that the figures for both London and America were incorrect. And it was thought that, if the actual destination of particular consignments were communicated to the Association, the figures could be subsequently corrected and the precise quantity available in London for home consumption ascertained. The proposed arrangement with the London Custom House would however, have involved some delay, and would also have occasioned expense, as the authorities wrote that they could not undertake the additional work without a special fee for each vessel. The suggestion was accordingly made that shippers who were in the habit of consigning on Opitional Bills tea which went first to the United Kingdom should be asked to always in such cases enter the tea with London as the first port in the Optional Bill; the London Committee were of opinion that if this end were obtained the difficulty would disappear, as it would then only be necessary to deduct from the United Kingdom figures the transhipment figures issued from time to time by the London Customs and published in the Brokers' circulars. The Committee are glad to say that this has now been arranged and shippers here have consented to state London as the first port in Optional Bills for tea which is sent first to London. It is hoped that this arrangement will work satisfactorily, and that the inaccuracies in the figures for London and America which were formerly noticeable will now be obviated.

British Import Duty on Tea.

In 1906 this duty was reduced from 6*d.* to 5*d.* per pound and it was hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would see his way to grant a still further remission in 1907; in spite, however, of the efforts of the Anti-Tea-Duty-League and of the fact that they had secured the sympathy of a large number of members of the House of Commons, Mr. Asquith did not make any change in the duty. A vigorous campaign is now being entered on by the League, and their aim is to obtain a duty of 3*d.* per lb.; they are hopeful that a reduction will be conceded by the Chancellor in the next budget. The Secretary of the League is always glad to hear from any parties interested in the movement, and receive contributions in aid of its propaganda.

Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

It was indicated in the last Report that the Committee feared they could not take further action here in connection with the efforts that have been made in recent years to obtain the abolition of the import duty of 4 annas per lb. levied on all teas entering Ceylon, as their repeated representations to Government had not met with success. They accordingly were then of opinion that any further attempt might be delayed until an opportunity occurred of again raising the question in the House of Commons. But in May a representation on the matter was submitted to the Committee by the following Associations and Branches:—The United Planters' Association of Southern India, the Assam and Surma Valley Branches of the Indian Tea Association, the Darjeeling Planters' Association, the Dehra Dun Planters' Association, the Dooars Planters' Association, the Kangra Valley Planters' Association, and the Terai Planters' Association; this urged that renewed action should be taken to obtain from the Government of Ceylon the removal of the objectionable duty, which it was felt imposed considerable injustice on Indian teas. The joint representation was recognised to be one of great weight, and deserving of the hearty support of the Association; a copy of the joint letter received by the Committee was accordingly forwarded to the Government of India with the request that the whole question should be again referred to the Secretary of State. The chief objection which those who support the duty advance to its abolition is thought to be that they fear the promiscuous admission to the island of low class teas from China and Japan would injure the reputation of the Ceylon product, and the Committee incline to think that if Indian tea alone were concerned, much of the existing opposition would disappear. However, the whole question is still under consideration. The matter is a difficult one, and has been before the Association for a considerable time, but the Committee hope that their recent efforts will secure the desired end.

Quality of Tea Boxes.

The Calcutta Tea Traders' Association drew the attention of the Committee to the necessity of great care being paid to the quality of the boxes in which teas are packed, both as regards the selection of wood and the actual making up. It had been brought to their notice that occasionally the chests used were so frail that they could not stand even the most careful handling on the part of carriers, and they asked that the Committee should issue a recommendation to members on the matter, so that complaints of the kind would not in future be made. The Committee did so and they would take this opportunity of again urging on members the importance of using only strong chests, made of properly seasoned wood, as otherwise it is hardly possible that the tea can arrive at its destination in proper condition. . . . .

Finance.

The total planted area represented by the Association during the year was 376,753¼ acres. The subscriptions at the rate of one anna per acre amounted to Rs.23,535-5-3, one member, joining in July, 1907, paying only six months subscription. The Revenue Account shows a surplus of Rs.1,716-5-2 which has been transferred to capital account. On the 31st December, 1907, the balance in hand amounted to Rs.17,702-12-11. In addition to this, Government 3½ per cent. securities to the extent of Rs.35,000 are held by the Committee.

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

The Annual Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the Planters' Association of Ceylon was held on February 14th at the Ferguson Memorial Hall, Kandy, Mr. Jas. R. MARTIN presiding.

EXTRACT FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, in moving the adoption of the report I shall make my remarks as brief as possible, because of the business to be got through to-day, and because I addressed you so very recently and said all there was to say. The position of tea, cocoa and cocoanuts is very satisfactory, and, so far as there is anything to be foreseen, should continue so. Rubber has experienced a fall in price recently, and that fall, I think, is correctly ascribed to the financial crisis in America. If that crisis improves, and it does not spread, we may look for a revival of prices, which will last for a few years perhaps. Therefore, the near future of rubber depends upon difficulties over which we have no control, and is doubtful; but whatever doubt there may be about the near future, there is no doubt whatever about the distant future, and that is that it lies with the cheap producer; and it is now our duty to organise our estates and labour forces so that Ceylon will be able to produce rubber at a cheaper rate than any other country in the world. The accounts of the Benevolent Fund are on the table. I recommend this excellent charity to every planter who can spare Rs.10 for his, distressed brethren. (*Hear, hear*). The report of the Labour Agency has also been placed before you, and I think it is a satisfactory account of useful work. Mr. Rowsell is here to-day to give any further information that may be required. He was sent over to India to carry out several well-specified objects, and these he has, in my opinion, carried out efficiently, and if it is your wish that he should enlarge the scope of his duties and undertake such other things as recruiting, I have no doubt that he will do that to your satisfaction also. I see here to-day some well-known faces—faces that used to be well-known —and I welcome here especially Mr. John Loudoun Shand. (*Applause*). The Thirty Committee has carried on its work on the usual lines. A special grant of £1,200 has been made to Mr. Renton to make a show at the Exhibition in Munich. Mr. Courtney is still our Commissioner in America until the end of this month, when his work will be taken over by Colonel Wilson, who will carry on our campaign on the same lines. I have followed Mr. Courtney's work as well as I could, and I interviewed him very closely when at Home. He has served us well and deserves our thanks, and I say this without casting the slightest reflection upon his predecessor—other men, other times, other methods. They both have served us well, and we can say that without casting the slightest reflection upon either of them. The Thirty Committee will wind up the year with a balance in hand, and there is a proposal before the Committee, which has been brought to our attention by the Ceylon Association in London, to join India in advertising Ceylon and Indian tea at Home, as a counterblast to the way in which China tea is being pushed at the moment. That proposal, I think, will be adopted. The question of labour will be fully dealt with this afternoon. I had hoped to have brought forward a scheme for bringing in coolies from the Coast, but Government have decided to hold a commission of inquiry into our labour difficulties, and I am of opinion that any scheme now proposed would be but labour thrown away, as we would have to state the whole of our case to Government, and the future of labour will depend a good deal upon the conclusion that Commission arrives at. I would ask you to remember, however, that last year 50 per cent. fewer coolies came into the Island than the average for the previous five years. We now have competitors in the labour market in Southern India, which we did not have before, and in the last few years somewhat between 100,000 and 150,000 acres of land have been opened, and in the next few years we will have to provide somewhere between 100,000 and 150,000 additional coolies. The rice import duty was referred to His Excellency, and he replied that he could not consider the matter at all, unless as one of the subjects for full revision of taxation. Well, I can say that, when that inquiry is made, the planters will welcome it, for they have everything to gain by it and nothing to lose.

Extracts from the Fifty-Fourth Annual Report

For the year ending 31st December, 1907.

From the Report, which was duly adopted, the following extracts are taken:—

In presenting the 54th Annual Report your Committee desire to congratulate the Association on the generally satisfactory conditions of the chief planting industries during the year under review. This condition is reflected, though not so fully as your Committee could wish, in the Register of Members, which at the 31st of December showed a total of 1,107, of which 66 were new subscriptions. The present financial position is sound, but a reconsideration of ways and means will have to be undertaken during 1908, and your Committee desire to repeat the appeal, made in last report, to non-subscribing estate proprietors and representatives to join and support the Association.

Ceylon Association in London.

During the past year correspondence on, and joint action in regard to matters affecting the Planting community has taken place, and your Committee record with pleasure that cordial and mutually helpful relations have been maintained between the two Associations.

District Associations.

There have been no additions to the number of the District Associations during the year and the total remains at 27 as in 1906.

British Import Duty on Tea.

An appeal has been made to the Proprietors of Ceylon Tea estates by the Secretary, Anti Tea-Duty League, for funds to carry on the campaign for the reduction of the Home Duty to at least 4*d.* per pound, at which figure it stood from 1890—1900, before the additional war tax was imposed.

This appeal has received the endorsement of both the Indian Tea Association and the Ceylon Association in London, and your Committee would heartily commend it to the attention of all Tea Companies, Agencies, and other Proprietors in Ceylon.

It is estimated that a subscription of £20 for every million pounds of tea produced would yield funds sufficient for the prosecution of the proposed campaign.

A leading firm of London tea brokers write in connection with this subject:—

"It may be well to point out that with a 5*d.* duty the annual increase in consumption, which ceased during the recent periods of high duties, has again been noticeable.

"There seems strong reason for believing that were there a return to a 4*d.* duty, there would be a still further increase in the use of Tea in the United Kingdom."

Labour.

This perennial question has throughout the year engaged the earnest attention of your Committee.

The serious falling-off in the number of immigrant labourers for the year ending 31st December, 1907, showing a total of only 55,724 as compared with an average of 103,000 during the five preceding years is strong evidence that additional inducements must be offered to coolies to immigrate to Ceylon if she is to retain command of the free labour supply so essential to the prosperity of the Island.

Free passages, increased pay or the issue of rice under cost price, estates bearing the loss, have been suggested as measures to attract labour, whilst the institution of estate kaddies and the keeping of individual cooly accounts in estate Check-rolls are becoming more general. The last named was the subject of a special recommendation from the London Association which was approved by your Committee.

The desirability of legislation in connection with the unsatisfactory condition of a considerable proportion of our present labour force owing to heavy indebtedness, leading to irregular working and the increasing of bolting and the repudiation of estate advances, was considered by a special Sub-Committee in unofficial conference with the Hon'ble the Acting Colonial Secretary (Mr. Fowler) and the Hon'ble the Attorney-General. The resulting correspondence, &c., has been circulated to all members of the Association and a resolution on the proposed registration scheme is to be submitted to Government.

Your Committee understand, though no official intimation has as yet been received, that it is the intention of H. E. The Governor to appoint a Commission to go into the whole labour question at an early date, and they trust that the labours of that Commission will conduce to a satisfactory solution of our present difficulties.

Coast Agency.

The Labour Commission has been worked during the year on previous lines by Mr. Rowsell, who has fully and ably carried out the duties he was sent to perform. The number of coolies passed through the Agency was very considerably less than last year, but this is accounted for by the general decrease in the total immigration of Tamil coolies into the Island.

The proportional ratio of coolies passing through the Agency has been fully maintained.

A suggestion has been made that Mr. Rowsell should undertake the recruiting of labour.

The question is a large one, but there would probably be no difficulty in arranging that this duty should be undertaken by the Agency, if the Association decides that it is desirable to do so.

PLANTING PRODUCTS.

Tea.

Estates generally are in good heart where cultivation and manuring have been judiciously carried on, and to an extension of these operations, made possible by the higher prices for tea, must be attributed the larger proportion of the increased shipments for the year, which totalled 176,117,016 lbs. of Black and 5,906,716 lbs. of Green tea.

The season generally has been a favourable one for yield, though most Districts suffered from a failure of the usual November-December rains.

Manuring and forking the soil has made Weeding a more expensive item than two years back.

Where Rubber has been interplanted in tea fields, the age of the plants, so far has not had time to affect the yield prejudicially in the generality of Low-Country Districts.

There is a good demand for Tea Seed, which means an increased area under cultivation, and in Rubber clearings in Uva we hear of tea being planted as a catch crop.

The quantity of Ceylon tea sold on the London market in 1907 was practically identical with that for 1906, but the average price was nearly 1*d.* per lb. higher, *viz*:—8½*d.* against 7½*d.*

On the Colombo Market the record quantity of over 1,000,000 packages, were offered for sale and the year has been remarkable for the high rates ruling for common teas, and for the fact that notwithstanding this there has been no weight of really undesirable low class tea manufactured; quality generally, although not so good as the previous year, has been fair throughout but really fine standout teas have been conspicuous by their absence.

The feature of the year has been the greatly increased Russian demand, this country having taken in all about 26,000,000 lbs., of which about 9,000,000 lbs. were dusts and fannings, consequently the latter have been higher than ever before, and fine kinds realized extraordinarily high rates, the average prices for these ranging from 66 cents to 76 cents.

This demand is anticipated again next year.

The average prices have been consistently above those of the previous year, the average for the whole year being 40·87 cents, against 34·82 cents for 1906.

The year closes with a very strong market, the statistical position showing that consumption is gradually overtaking production, and if no coarse plucking is resorted to, there is every prospect of as good or even a better market generally during 1908.

Bonded stocks in London are low and Duty-paid stocks are reported to be very small.

The estimated tea crop for 1908 is 178,000,000 lbs. distributed as follows:—

United Kingdom	103,000,000 lbs.
Russia	22,000,000 „
Other Countries	2,500,000 „
America	14,000,000 „
Africa	1,250,000 „
Australia	24,000,000 „
India	1,250,000 „
China	10,000,000 „
	178,000,000 lbs.

Green Tea.

This year has shewn marked progress in this branch of the Ceylon Tea Industry, notwithstanding the fact that prices have been very much higher, in sympathy with Black Teas.

Production has shewn a distinct increase, and what is still more pleasing is the fact that shipments have also shewn a corresponding increase. The higher prices have somewhat curtailed the amount of business which might otherwise have been done in the United States of America and Canada, where our teas have come into competition with Japan's and China's, and it is indeed gratifying to note that American shipment figures show that we have more than maintained our footing in these markets, even although conditions have been somewhat adverse. Fortunately, the shortage in the Japan crop and the consequent higher prices for these growths assisted somewhat Ceylon Greens to hold their own.

Russian shipment figures are extremely encouraging, showing an increase of over 100 per cent. against the previous season, and a steady increase is looked for in this direction in the future.

The total production of Green Tea for this year is approximately 6¼ million lbs., against 4¼ million lbs. for 1906. It is very gratifying to note that increased attention is being paid to manufacture, and this has undoubtedly helped to bring Ceylon Green Tea into favour.

Steady perseverance in this direction will go a long way to ensure further success in the future.

Publication of Detailed Tea Prices at Colombo Sales.

Only the averages of the invoices sold are now published.

Cocoa.

The crop for the year was 92,500 cwts., being the largest yet shipped in any one year by 23,000 cwts., but this was in some measure due to the late ripening of the 1906 crop and the consequent inclusion of a larger proportion than usual in the shipments for 1907.

Prices have been satisfactory throughout the year, occasionally reaching a very high figure and although it is unlikely that these fancy prices will be maintained still a study of the figures of production and consumption points to the fact that it is probable that prices for some time to come will rule higher than they have done in the past decade.

The agricultural position of the product is sound, and the damage now done by Canker and disease is of a trivial nature, though constant care is still necessary.

With a proper system of pruning and cultivation, Cocoa can be made to yield satisfactory crops.

The estimate for 1908 is 70,000 cwts.

The Cocoa Stealing Ordinance is working well in Matale, but in other Kandyan Districts complaints have been received which seem to point to the fact that a more vigorous enforcement of the Ordinance is necessary.

CARDAMOMS.

The crop for the year has been a fair average and of good quality. London prices for bleached from 1*s.*/3*d.* to 3*s.*/10*d.* and seeds from 1*s* /10*d.* to 2*s*/4*d.* per lb. Local prices have ranged from 75 cents. to Rs. 1·35 while from 75 cents. to Rs. 1·46 have paid for Green-dried.

The demand from India for the latter has considerably increased during the year, the shipments to India, chiefly Green-dried, have now exceeded the total shipments to the United Kingdom by 65,200 pounds, whilst shipments of bleached to Germany have fallen off. Turkey has taken 8,300 lbs. more than last year.

Total shipments have exceeded the estimate by 89,495 lbs. due probably to a larger balance carried forward from 1906 than was estimated.

The cess of one cent per lb., collected for two years lapsed on 1st October and an appropriation of Rs.10,000 was sanctioned by Government from the fund, for the distribution of samples and pamphlets through the courtesy of the various Consuls and others who kindly forwarded cases containing Cardamons in ¼-lb. tins to Agents for distribution in the countries they represent.

The balance at credit of Cardamom Cess fund is Rs.12,900.

It is believed that only a very limited area of land is suitable for the profitable cultivation of this product, and many of the Cardamoms planted a few years ago have been rooted out and the land planted with tea, which grows well in old Cardamom land.

The total area now under Cardamoms as given in Ferguson's hand-book is 8,451 acres corrected to August last. Two years ago 9,000 acres were under this product.

The crop for 1908 is not expected to exceed 700,000 lbs., as very little of 1907 crop is being carried forward to 1908.

The cost of curing has been considerably reduced by the increased demand for Green-dried and by the introduction of the Cardamom clipping machine, where it has taken the place of hand clipping.

CAMPHOR.

The cultivation of the Camphor tree continues to attract attention, though prices have fallen considerably.

The old, destructive method of obtaining the camphor is now being abandoned as too improvident to repay the expenses of cultivation. There seems to be a general tendency to look towards the leaves and new twigs as to the future source of commercial camphor. It is found that the valuable product is distributed throughout the whole system of the tree, and a method of cultivation, depending upon the production of a large quantity of leaves and twigs, is probably the one which will be aimed at.

Rubber.

The acreage under Rubber in Ceylon is estimated at 155,000 and is probably the largest extent cultivated in any one country.

The growth of the trees is good and estates generally in satisfactory order, though in some localities scarcity of labour has caused weeding of new clearings to be both difficult and expensive.

Experiments are constantly being made to determine the best methods and intervals for tapping.

Biscuit, sheet and crepe are the forms of the cured product most in favour at present.

There is very little disease of any kind and there is every reason to anticipate that recognized estimates of cost of production and yield per acre will be realised.

Towards the end of the year heavy fall in the prices of raw rubber took place, principally owing to the financial panic in the United States, but there is reason to shortly expect a recovery in quotations which will last over the next few years, and even if prices fall considerably lower than they now are, Rubber in Ceylon should not cease to be a highly profitable investment.

The distant future of Rubber lies with the cheap producer and it is probable that Ceylon can produce more cheaply than any other country.

The estimated export for 1908 is 360 tons.

Rubber Thefts Prevention Ordinance.

The draft of this Ordinance was submitted to your Committee and met with its hearty approval.

The Ordinance is drafted on the lines of that for the prevention of Cocoa thefts and will afford Rubber growers a similar measure of protection where properly enforced.

Insect Pests.

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. E. Green your Committee report that, not new or startling tea pests have attracted special attention during the year.

Tortrix, though still somewhat troublesome in some of the up-country Districts, has not assumed the serious condition that prevailed in Maskeliya two years ago.

Shothole borer remains our most important tea pest Mr. Tyler's scorching method is a new departure in the treatment of the borer, and gives promise of good results.

Tea mites are always more or less prevalent during the dry season, but are readily amenable to the sulphur treatment.

There have been a few cases of defoliation by "Red Slug" and "Nettle Grub," but not of a widespread or serious character.

Helopeltis has been rather more troublesome than usual in parts of the Kelani Valley.

The disastrous cyclone in the Batticaloa District has been followed by an alarming increase in the numbers of the red palm-weevil. Measures have been taken to check further increase by new regulations under the Pests Ordinance, insisting upon the destruction of fallen trees.

Rubber still remains exempt from any really dangerous insect pests. It is believed that the presence of the viscid latex in the bark renders the plant practically immune to attack.

Election of Chairman.

MR. BEACHCROFT TAKES THE CHAIR.

Mr. GIBBON: I will move that our present Chairman shall continue for a few minutes more in the Chair. We have trusted him for two years and I think we can trust him for another five minutes. (*Laughter*).

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. W. D. Gibbon to bring forward the motion standing in his name.

Mr. W. D. GIBBON: Mr. Chairman,—I have great pleasure in proposing the Resolution, which has been so freely advertised in the papers for the last few days. Mr. Beachcroft has certainly no easy task before him in filling a Chair that has been filled by so many able men, and I need not now refer to the last gentleman, who now vacates the Chair—Mr. Martin. He, as you have already shown by your applause, quite gained our respect and all our affection by the manner in which he has discharged the duties of the Chair. However, he is going, and we must get a new man. I don't think that we can possibly get a better man than he whom I have to propose this afternoon—Mr H. A. Beachcroft. I have very little fear that he will prove unworthy of our confidence. He has had a certain amount of experience as a District Chairman, I believe, and he is also a man of legal attainments, and I think he will do very well when he comes to take the Chair, and when very many fresh proposals for legislation come before him. He is a gentleman full of tact, and he has leisure, and he has got no very great difficulty hanging about him in regard to the future, which sometimes presses us poor Managers who take the Chair. Gentlemen, I need not say anything further in favour of Mr. Beachcroft. I am perfectly sure that at the end of his term of office he will receive your applause. I have very great pleasure in moving that he be elected for the year 1908. (*Loud applause*).

Mr. FRASER: I heartily endorse everything Mr. Gibbon has said, and have much pleasure in seconding the Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN put the motion, which was carried unanimously; and Mr. Beachcroft took the Chair amidst hearty applause.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN: If I was diffident as I approached the Chair, your applause has made me more so. Thank you, however, for electing me to the office, for which I have always had the greatest respect, and in which I hope I shall be able to fulfil my duty. I can assure you that I will do my best to further your interests. It is now my pleasant duty—a more pleasing one than the last, when I had to break the ice—to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman. He acted for us for two years and I think his ready eloquence, his genial presence, and the devotion to his work which he showed in spite of a serious illness, certainly commands our respect, and I don't think there is one of us who feels that he has not ably filled the Chair. If I had no other reason for respecting him, the fact that he has gone through two years of Committee meetings would cause me to do so. I propose a very hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, Mr. J. R. Martin.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. MARTIN: I thank you, sir; thank you, gentlemen, very much.

COMMITTEES.

The General Committee and the Thirty-Committee were then appointed.

Address by Mr. Loudoun Shand.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

Mr. J. LOUDOUN SHAND: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have never been in this hall before, and I am not quite sure how loud I ought to speak in it, so if I speak too loud please call me to order, and if I do not speak sufficiently loud, please tell me. It is 22 years since I had the pleasure of addressing a Meeting of the Planters' Association, and I need not say that it gives me very great pleasure to be here again. A good many shadows flit across me when I think of old times. I remember the dingy old Kandy Library—the nursery and cradle of my simple oratorical efforts—which has been re-placed now by this splendid hall, and the shadows of many a good old friend who argued with me also flit before me. But there is no time in public life to indulge in sentiment. There is no room for sentiment. We must be up and doing, and I am thankful to see that the shadows of the past are so hopefully replaced by the sunshine of to-day. (Hear, hear). I cannot go so far back in the annals of this Association as my venerable yet ever young friend who is seated opposite me—Mr. W. D. Gibbon—but I can tell you a little that occurred in former times. When I first came to Ceylon the Association was practically

IN THE HANDS OF TWO GREAT MERCANTILE FIRMS,

who were like Montagues and Capulets. They succeeded one another in power year after year, and the voice of the Planting community was but little heard. That was before we had a large proprietary in the country, and I think if you will look back to the proceedings of that Association, you will find that I proposed the Resolution that brought forward the scheme of affiliating District Associations with the Parent Association. I remember well when I was going to bring forward this Resolution, that good old man Mr. George Wall, who was so long connected with this Association. He was a most ardent radical where other people's affairs were concerned, but, like all other ardent Radicals I have ever met, when his own affairs were concerned he was a most zealous Conservative. He told me the Resolution I was putting forward would bring about the disintegration of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, but we and others thought we knew a little better. We knew that the Districts had largely expanded, that a different class of Planters had come out to Ceylon, and that there were many who were anxious to take their part in public life. This was in the past. Well, sir, we started these District Associations; and what has been the result? The Association has gone on from year to year, gaining strength, and I am very glad to see what I do see here to-day, and that is such a large and influential meeting, and that it is held in such excellent times. Now, sir, I have been wandering about the country for a fortnight, and, of course, the great cry I have heard everywhere is

THE LABOUR CRY.

I have visited a dozen or more estates, and I find that labour is fairly well established, that advances are not very high, but there is the constant anxiety of unsettlement. They don't know what is going to happen next. Now I think these labour difficulties in Ceylon—I say it with great deference—are I won't say exaggerated, but very small compared to the labour difficulties you would have had to undergo with similar changes in other countries. Now take Lancashire as an illustration. Suppose that *they* wanted half as much labour again as they have. Suppose that instead of employing men only, as we once did here, they had commenced to employ men, women and children. What would be the result—strikes, labour disputes, and riots of all sorts? Here you have troubles but they are troubles which, I believe, if you set yourself manfully to work, and bring your whole genius to bear on the question, you can overcome. There are two things which occur to me in this question. Of course, I am afraid that there is difficulty—that formerly we used to give our coolies advances for a specific purpose, and that

was to bring coolies from the Coast. Now you have become philanthropic bankers, lending money for everything and anything they like. That, of course, has been a gradual growth, and one which possibly could not be helped, and worthy of consideration. I know well that orders come forth that such and such an area has to be planted, and you have to get coolies—honestly if you can but get coolies—and they do it. (Laughter). Now, gentlemen, another point is this—when I was out here we had

A CERTAIN CODE OF HONOUR AMONG PLANTERS

which, I am afraid, is not so readily observed. I suppose we are all getting somewhat commercial. But I tell you this, that when I was a planter a neighbour would have as soon thought of running away with his neighbour's wife as with his cooly,—if not sooner (Laughter) Now I should like, if possible, to see things again on that same footing. (Loud laughter). You, sir, I should like to congratulate on your achievement to the position which it was my honour to aspire to, and to achieve, some 29 years ago. But there is a great difference between us. I was Chairman in its very darkest hours. It was very hard to keep it together; many members fell off. It was difficult to keep it going. In those days nothing smiled upon us, but we all came up smiling, and did our best, and I rejoice to see that this is the fruit of our labours of that day. (Cheers).

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure we are all very greateful to Mr. Shand for his address. He made me shrink a little at first when he alluded to the difference between us. I thought he meant a physical difference.

The Tea Cess.

The following debate took place on the question of the Tea Cess:—

Mr. R. HUYSHE ELIOT: I think you will agree with me that I begin in considerable disadvantage after listening to Mr. Shand's address. However, I crave your indulgence to propose the following motion:—"That this Association protests against the stoppage of the Tea Cess at the end of 1908, on the ground that only a very small minority of the producers, by whom it is paid, is opposed to its collection, and that it urges on the Ceylon Association in London the desirability of co-operation with a view to obtaining a reconsideration of Lord Elgin's decision." Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I trust that the widespread interest taken in the Tea Industry as a whole will be sufficient excuse for the Resolution standing in my name to-day. It is just 20 years past since the Ceylon Tea Fund was started for the purpose of advertising Ceylon teas in various parts of the world, and during the seven years of its existence it did good work. The present Tea Cess came into existence in 1894 after the Chicago Exhibition, provided for by a special Ordinance No. 4 of 1894 and a Committee of Thirty was appointed to administer the same. This cess has thus been in existence for nearly 14 years, and he would be a bold man who would say that it has not been successful in its object,—namely "increasing the consumption of Ceylon Tea in Foreign Lands." In 1906 a certain number of opponents of the Tea Cess, representing but a small number of the producers who pay this tax (so called) petitioned the Secretary of State, Lord Elgin, praying for the abolition of the cess, and the outcome of this was a decree dated 19th October, 1906, stating that at a fixed time, two years from date, the cess should cease. This was afterwards made to be the end of December, 1908. One of the reasons given by Lord Elgin in his despatch for shutting down the cess was "the increased opposition to the cess." This, gentlemen, I think you will agree is hardly correct, and this matter should be pointed out to his Lordship by the combined Associations. (*Applause*). It is to endeavour to save this cess from extinction that I bring forward this Resolution for your consideration to-day. I do not propose to take you into the pros and cons of the administration of this Fund during these past 14 years, but I maintain it has amply justified its existence Critics and opponents of the cess have asked for proofs of the good done by the spending of these large sums of money. I ask you, gentlemen, could any large advertising

concern directly prove the good done by spending money in that manner? No, it would be impossible, and it has been proved over and over again that the stopping of advertising has led to severe loss of business. It is accepted that advertisement is considered absolutely necessary in every business, and further, all countries producing tea have followed the example of Ceylon with the exception of China, with the result that the consumption of China tea is declining in all countries of the world. This tends to show the Ceylon producer has been getting good value for his money. Another argument brought forward is that the fund has effected its object, that of Missionary work, and the rest should be left to the trade to push. This is probably justifiable in the case of Russia and Australasia, but I much doubt it being so in the case of the Continent of Europe and America. Dealing with America I would say if we had £100,000 to lay out in advertising we could do it, and to good advantage. (*Hear, hear*). Take this vast continent of America, with its population of 85,000,000; thousands and thousands of these have never tasted tea in their lives. Why? Because they are coffee-drinkers, and require to be educated to the use of tea. And who will say this is impossible? It has been suggested that, even supposing the cess were continued, the "Thirty Committee" would be at a loss to apply the money. My reply to that would be, the United States alone offers ample scope. (*Applause*). At the present time tea is basking in the sunshine of prosperity Was this the case five or six years ago? Surely as time goes on the pendulum must swing the other way, and we shall be face to face with the problem of how to dispose of our teas again, and if we have this organisation destroyed, this useful piece of machinery stopped, would we not rightly and justly blame ourselves? I would not ask for the continuance of the cess at any fixed rate, but would favour a rate that will keep things going, as we never know when it may be required. Only this last month we were asked to contribute £2,000 by the London Association conjointly with India, to counteract the propaganda in favour of China tea, which is now taking place in England. To those who oppose the cess, I should like to again point out the position taken by the Indian producers. For years India watched Ceylon in America, not following her example, till at last wiser counsels prevailed and a cess similar to ours was instituted, and is to run on at least for another five years. Why should Ceylon not be similarly treated? Would this have been done if it had not been considered sound and good business? I do not think so. Is it also sound business to retire and not follow up all the good work carried on since the Chicago Exhibition in 1893. Considerable work has been done in America in pushing teas, and as you were well aware, Mr. William Mackenzie was our Commissioner. Is it wise to throw up the work that was started and carried on, even in latter years through the St. Louis Exhibition? I don't think so. Again, to those who consider that no good has been done with this money, I would ask about the Canadian market. I think you will agree that this market has been captured, entirely, I say, through the "Thirty Committee's" work. Mr. William Mackenzie and Mr. Larkin had introduced the tea business in Canada, and the result has been eminently satisfactory, so much so that three or four years ago Mr. Larkin opened up 3 or 4 branches in the Middle West, and he told me personally that he did not expect to make these branches to pay for at least three or four years. It is true that for some reason or another the exports during the last year have fallen off in the United States, but I think the reason for that is quite clear; the Americans have not cared to pay for the teas they have been accustomed to at the high rate that has been ruling, and even if it were a fact that the falling-off is continuing, there is all the more reason to carry on our campaign. In my Resolution, I shall ask for the co-operation of the London Association in this matter, which I trust will be given. And, gentlemen, I shall ask you to support this Resolution on broad lines. We do not want to enter into personalities; we do not want to go into by-ways. This is a prosperous time we are going through. We can well afford to pay the small amount that is asked for this tax, and you will agree with me that advertising is the soul of business. As there is a large agenda I will not trouble you with further remarks. I beg to move this Resolution. (*Applause*).

The Hon'ble Mr. ROSLING seconded.

An Appeal by Mr. Westland.

Mr. Westland: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I do not wish to give a silent vote on this occasion: it is so important a subject. We have for years been handling large sums of money for the purpose of sending Missionaries to make known our teas. It is a very difficult matter to get business men to do Missionary work, especially such men as we tried to get to work in America. They did not care to handle our teas for the simple reason that it paid them better to deal with the cheap China's, and now, when our teas are going up in prices, it behoves us more than ever to push and do all we can to get our Ceylon teas before the American public. When we sent our Commissioner first to America his difficulty was to get anyone to handle our teas. He struck oil in Mr. Larkin, who was one of the trade. He was prepared to do his own Missionary work, but did it on certain lines, we providing one-third of the expenditure needed. The result is that he built up for himself a very excellent business. It is only lately that I saw a big American newspaper styling him "The American Tea King." No doubt he knew what he was about. But much as he has done for us, still more is to be done. We have still to get these men who are handling China, and who will push China more than ever if we fail. We must have funds to push our teas in America. It is no use going on and saying we have not got that money. We must get it, and we don't want it out of anyone else's pocket. We only ask of Government to be allowed to take it out of our own pockets and spend it for the benefit of the Island. We have tried to educate the Continent. Are you going now to let China tea in there? We are educating in Germany 65 millions. Are we going to allow this Chinese Association to stretch its fingers and grasp this work which we have commenced. The time was in Austria—in Vienna—when you could scarcely buy it except in the chemists' shops. But they are beginning to be educated to drink our teas, and if we quietly step aside and cease our Missionary work the China Association will step in and reap the benefit. I point out that it is a very serious matter to give up. Now we have put our hand to the plough we must make a straight furrow. There is one point not touched by the proposer of the Resolution, and that is that India has been advised that their Government will have another five years to collect the tea cess from April 1st. If it is good for Indian planters it is good for us, and why should the Secretary of State make an exception in the case of Ceylon, and allow Indian planters to go on advertising and turn to little Ceylon and say, "No, you must not do it any longer, you have done it long enough!" Who is against the cess? Is it the Planters? No. It is the great bulk of the blenders, and the sellers of tea in London and America. It is they who are affected. They cannot give the prices for our tea. They want the China, they want the cheaper leaves to take the place of ours. I hope you will unanimously to-day show that you really feel the necessity of going on with this cess more than ever. (*Applause*).

An Opposer of the Cess.

Mr. A. H. Thomas: Your predecessor in the Chair, sir, mentioned in an off-hand kind of way that there was a certain amount to the credit of the cess, but he did not specify the amount, because, I have no doubt in my own mind, he thought it was rather too large a sum. It is something over Rs.1,80,000 up to the end of last year, and now we commence from the first of January hoarding up again. I think probably the "Thirty Committee" are going to form some kind of Endowment Fund, something like the Planters' Benevolent Fund ("Oh!"). Now, gentlemen, what are the facts with regard to this cess in America. We have our Commissioner, there, and on the Continent of Europe we have another Commissioner. They are both paid well and handsomely. What is the result of their work for last year? In all countries on the Continent where our Commissioner has worked and in the whole of America, during last twelve years, the tea imports into these countries have been less in 1907 than they were in 1906. (*Hear, hear*). That is not extraordinary. I won't say that is extraordinary at all, for the reason is very clear. We

Planters are not shop-keepers; we are not tea traders, we are producers. Shop-keepers and tea traders are jealous of any interference. They like to advertise all over the world and show up their name, and they do not want us to interfere. This money is thrown away. (Loud cries of "No")—thrown away for the last fourteen years. ("No" and cries of "time" and "sit down"). Now, gentlemen, in regard to this green leaf I have spoken several times in this room on the same question, but I was told at the Queen's Hotel that unless I said a few words there would be no opposition at all to this motion being carried. I will give you an instance, Two years ago, before I spoke in this room, I had gone round the planters in Kandy and got seventeen of them to agree with me. That is a very small minority I confess—(*laughter*)—but when I held up my hand there were only two with me. (*Loud laughter*). Gentlemen, I only instance this to show that a good many gentlemen had not the courage of their convictions. (*Laughter*, and voices "quite right too" and "I should think so") In regard to green tea I spoke very strongly some years ago in this house and do so again. Although it is clear to us to-day that the export of green tea is increasing—(cheers), as regards the import into Canada, what is the reason? The reason is plain. The inducement, the bonus for the manufacture of green tea years ago was so great that it encouraged everybody and anybody to go in for making it, and what was the consequence? It was made by the million, and I know as a fact, there was something like a million pounds in Colombo, unsaleable because it was such rubbish Immediately the bonus was taken off what was the result? The green tea went into the markets of Canada. Now every man is careful in the manufacture of green tea, and good tea is going into the markets and export will go on increasing. That is the result of stopping the bonus. ("Oh"!) The sooner this cess is stopped the better. (Mr. Skrine. *Hear, hear*), and I am very glad indeed that it is to be done away with at the end of this year. I hope there are gentlemen here, courageous enough to join with me, and if they have any idea let us have that idea.

MR. ROLLO.

Mr. KEITH ROLLO: I support what Mr. Thomas has said. I think the cess has really done its duty. Hitherto the cess, I think, has been of great benefit to the producer, but if you go on spending more money on the Continent of Europe and in America it will be a mistake. Perhaps I am selfish, for I can get a larger profit on every pound I sell at present in America than on that which I sell in London. So I think the time has come when the cess has to cease. I may be selfish (a voice "yes"). But why should I pay a tax for pushing our tea in America when for every pound I can get a half penny more there than I can get in London (a voice: "You have to thank the cess for that"). Why should I go on spending money on the cess? (*Laughter*). I think it is time the cess should stop.

MR. WELLDON.

Mr. WELLDON: I cannot help rising just to say two words. Mr. Thomas got up and said we had started green tea by means of a bonus and now we are able to sell double the quantity of green tea. What was it that enabled us to sell that tea? Simply that we started it with a bonus, and now we reap the benefit. Mr. Rollo gets up and says: "I want no more cess because I can sell all my tea at a penny more per lb. in America." Well, gentlemen, what has enabled him to do that? The cess. (*Cheers and laughter*, in which Mr. Rollo joined). Mr. Thomas said we have Rs.1,80,000 cess money and we are going to start a Benevolent Fund. I think he has made a mistake there. We have got a good deal of money and we hope gradually to spend it in a useful way in opening up Continental markets. To that, gentlemen who only think about themselves, will be able to say, "why should I pay this cess? I can get a penny more for my tea in France than I can get in England." (*Laughter*, in which Mr. Rollo heartily joined). But, gentlemen, that is not the purpose for which we want the cess. We do not want necessarily to spend a large sum of money, but we want a latent system which we may have in hand, so that later, if prices fall, we may again revert to the opening of new markets and selling large quantities of tea in countries which we have never been allowed to enter up to date. (*Cheers*).

MR. BLISS.

Mr. BLISS: In case there are others who would like to learn the results of the cess, I will merely quote a passage from the circular of Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton: "One o the most remarkable features of the last two years has been the great expansion in the use of our teas abroad. This rose from 129,884,250 lbs. in 1905 to 162,461,824 lbs. in 1906, and about 171,500,000 lbs. in 1907. When it is remembered that in 1890 the total consumption of Indian and Ceylon tea abroad was only 14,001,132 lbs. the progress made is really startling, and much credit is due to the energy with which these new markets have been exploited. Results should be gratifying to those who have spent so much money in fostering these outlets. There is no doubt that the expansion in these markets has saved the industry from very serious losses, and largely contributed to the more satisfactory position at the present time." I do not think, sir, I can usefully add anything to that. (*Cheers*).

MR. SHOLTO SKRINE.

Mr. SHOLTO SKRINE (who was received with cheers) said: I thank you, gentlemen, for the way you have received me. It seems to be my unfortunate lot in life to be frequently standing in the position of the defender of the minority, but I console myself with the reflection that the minority is nearly always right—(*laughter*)—because they are always in earnest, and the majority are nothing but a flock of sheep who are ready to follow everybody. I am here by accident. I happened to come out to Ceylon, and it is my good fortune to stand up here again and address this Association. I am glad of the opportunity of addressing you again on the subject that is now before us—a subject in which I have taken the greatest interest, a subject, gentlemen, that concerns us all very closely, especially the real producers of tea. I had the honour about six or eight months ago of standing up in the London Association and expressing very emphatic views on this particular subject; and on that occasion I was, perhaps, not so well received as I ought to have been. (*Laughter*). All sorts of unkind things were said without any possible justification for them whatever. I have never said anything adverse to the character of, or the way in which, the Thirty Committee carried on their business, but I have considered that their methods were wrong, and I think so still. It is a matter of absolute surprise to me that a gentleman should get up in this room and ask the unfortunate producer to continue to tax himself to the tune of forty of fifty thousand per annum for a time undated; and when you consider that his unfortunate predecessor has been taxed for the last ten years, in spite of the protest of many of us, for, presumably, the good of the industry, you would have supposed that at least the supporters of the Resolution would have been able to point out in the most graphic way some good result—absolute good result in that has resulted from the spending of twenty thousand a year in America and ten thousand on the Continent. A gentleman I have not the honour to know, has quoted Gow, Wilson and Stanton's circular. I endorse that circular, but I deny—emphatically deny—that the cess had anything to do with it. ("Oh"!) When you come to analyse the figures which Gow, Wilson and Stanton put before you, you see that the markets which show this remarkable expansion are the markets in which the cess has done nothing. On the Continent, for instance, even Mr. Renton admits that the cess has been practically futile. I think it was the "Observer" only the other day that published a statement that the consumption of tea in France had actually arrived at the magnificent figure of ·06 per head of the population, and that in Germany at ·14 If we take the American market, which has been instanced by the proposer of this Resolution, it is admitted that our exports, in spite of the twenty thousand a year expended, have fallen off. Ten or twelve years ago we sent a gentleman of whom I have the highest opinion—a more straightforward or honourable man never existed. He was a man with as little knowledge of business habits as I have myself, and you expected him to go among a lot of sharpers ("Oh")—like the American business man, is—and push our teas. Having got rid of him you have sent another gentleman in whom you have every confidence and about whom I know

nothing; but I know you sent him to America, and the first thing he says is that everything done by the former Commissioner was wrong. They cannot both be right. If you were right in supporting Mr. Mackenzie, you are wrong in supporting Mr. Courtney. If you are right in supporting Mr. Courtney, you were wrong in supporting Mr. Mackenzie. Therefore I think I am right in considering that in this case money has practically been frittered away ("Oh"). There is another reason why I oppose this Resolution, and that is that it is inaccurate. It says that only a very small minority of the producers by whom it is paid is opposed to its collection. Now, gentlemen, that is an inaccurate statement. I am as thoroughly certain as I stand here that it is an inaccurate statement, and that it is not a small minority that is opposed to the cess. If you came to take a plebiscite of the community, the opponents would be found in large numbers; but assuming it is a small minority, it is absolutely certain—as certain as I stand here—that neither Lord Elgin nor any other Secretary of State will again sanction the cess in Ceylon until you can show a unanimous vote, which you will not be able to do If you are unable to do that, this Resolution, I say, is futile, and it is a mistake to send it to London.

Mr. SKRINE then proposed as an amendment that "as there is undoubtedly a considerable interest opposed to the tea cess, and there being no hope of its being re imposed unless Lord Elgin can be shown a practically unanimous vote in its favour by Ceylon producers, it is inadvisable to move in the matter."

Mr. THOMAS: It gives me great pleasure to second the amendment.

MR. GIBBON.

Mr. W. D. GIBBON: Nobody is better pleased than I am to see my old friend Mr. Skrine amongst us here to-day, but by his coming here he has made it impossible for me to keep silent. I have got an old dog at home. He is a very old dog. (*Laughter*) He is not fit for much, but there is one thing about him, and that is if you say the word "rats!" he seems to live again. (*Loud laughter*). He is something like me—(*laughter*)—the old dog. (*Laughter*). Now when Mr. Skrine comes and speaks here I remember the magnificent battles he and I have had and I cannot resist the temptation to reply to him. I certainly am glad Mr. Skrine has come here, because he has ventilated the opinion of London ("No"). It is a nice thing to see a man having the courage of his convictions and coming here to say what he has to say. At the same time Mr. Skrine is quite wrong. (*Laughter*). There are one or two things particularly which make me feel it would be a very improper thing to allow it to be said for a single moment that the Secretary of State would be right in putting a stop to the cess. In the first place we have not done at all with our agitation. Only the other day a request came to us from the London Association for £2,000 for the purpose of opposing the propaganda in favour of China tea. (*Hear, hear*). If we had not a fund like this to help us, how could we support the London Association, which is Mr. Skrine's Association more than it is mine? His Association come to us and ask us for £2,000 to fight against the China Tea Association. There were many other points on which I could reply to Mr. Rollo and Mr. Thomas. I was through India only the other day, and, therefore, had the opportunity of judging its great magnitude compared with Ceylon. If there is any one more than another gifted with clear-headedness, it is India with the most able body of civil servants, and probably the most able body of merchants in the world. Now you find the Indian Tea Association, not only as we have been told to-day, continuing the cess for five years longer, but also continuing what Mr. Thomas so much objects to, namely, the bonus on green tea. (*Hear, hear*).

THE HON'BLE MR. ROSLING.

Mr. ROSLING: I am an unfortunate producer—(*laughter*)—one among the many Mr. Sholto Skrine has referred to; and in the past ten years, during those very dark days when the unfortunate producer had a very small margin of profit, I congratulated myself that we had such a fund as the cess fund, for I have been in fairly close intimacy with the work of the last twelve years, and

the more I saw of it the more I felt assured that it saved many men here from a worse lot than they bore as it was. (*Cheers*). Mr. Sholto Skrine and the opposers of the cess twit us that we are unable to show specific results. That is a very easy argument to bring forward because no business firm alive can point to specific results from specific advertisements, as I have said before in this room. Neither Liptons, nor any other advertising firm can say "We have spent a thousand pounds here, and such and such business has resulted from it;" but they do know that directly the advertising is stopped, their sales have fallen off. As the proposer of this motion said, you must look at the subject on broad lines. Whatever is good for the individual business is good for the community When we were in the dark days, and it was a heavy tax on some of us to find the money, we did find the money and pushed our tea, and now it is a small sum compared with the increased price at which tea is selling, which may be regarded as a small insurance to provide against possible darker days. (*Hear, hear*). As regards specific results we cannot, as I say, point to definite results, but there is one result that we can congratulate ourselves upon, and if there is another monument raised in Kandy it should be to the Thirty Committee for starting the green tea bonus. (*Laughter, and hear, hear*). We started by offering a bonus to foster a new industry, and we did foster it until such time as we found that the young infant could walk by itself. Possibly we stopped it a little too soon, for in the following year there was a fall in the shipments from eight to two millions, but from that year, in spite of there being no bonus, the export of green tea has risen from two millions up to last year, when it was something under six millions. (*Hear, hear*). Will anybody maintain that if that had been turned into black tea, the average price of black tea would have reached the figure it did last year? I am perfectly convinced that it would not, in the light of what we have seen, and considering the small variation in the stock, that means a rise or fall in the market. (*Hear, hear*). We have been twitted again with the fact that the countries where we have not spent any money show the best results. It only shows that we were wise enough not to spend any money in these countries. Take the case of Russia. There was a little amateur retailing of Ceylon tea in Russia before the days of the Thirty Committee; but, speaking generally, the Thirty Committee inaugurated the Ceylon tea trade with Russia, but when we found that the trade was going on sufficiently well we retired, and we would have been very wrong if we had not retired. It was the same with Australia. After the Thirty Committee was started it had seen that the trade could go on without any assistance, and we did not spend any money there. As to places like France, where Mr. Skrine says the consumption is ·06 of a lb. per head, that is the reason for our being there. We work in countries where the trade has not found a proper footing as yet. It is for us to go there and push our tea, and when we find we are doing sufficient business we can retire. As long as countries like France exist, where our tea requires to be advertised, we must do all we can to maintain the cess. (*Hear, hear*). I think the strongest argument we have in approaching Lord Elgin and asking him to renew the cess is the fact that India has been allowed a further term of five years. If it is good for India, surely it must be a desirable thing for us to do the same, and surely we must be allowed to know our own business. Mr. Sholto Skrine says the minority against the cess is a large one. Personally, I think it is a small one. (*Hear, hear*). But the only way of saying definitely is by taking a vote. Well, the last vote we took—and it was taken fairly recently—showed 40,000 acres against, out of a total of 400,000 acres, which is a minority of ten per cent. I have great doubts whether, if a vote were taken to-day, it would show one per cent. increase in the minority. Hitherto I have been merely dealing with matters of opinion spoken to by Mr. Skrine; but there is one mis-statement of fact. He said we "got rid of" Mr. Mackenzie. We did not get rid of Mr. Mackenzie. After bearing the burden and toil for many years, he felt the time had arrived when he would like to retire, and much to our regret he relinquished the work.

Mr. SKRINE: I had no intention of implying that you had sent him away. I am well aware that Mr. Mackenzie retired because he felt he had had enough of it,

Mr. ROSLING: If that is so, I am glad to withdraw what I have said, but certainly the words "got rid of" were open to misunderstanding. (*Hear hear*). As regards Mr. Renton getting down-hearted, I sympathise with Mr Renton if he has had to listen to Mr. Skrine very often. (*Laughter*). I cannot help feeling that it is for us to try and counteract that by encouraging him to further good work. I have been Home every two or three years since the cess started, and have had the pleasure of long and interesting talks with Mr. Renton, and I have come away feeling that he seemed to be cheered up and really had an idea of increasing his work; but if he has listened to oratorical efforts such as we have listened to to-day, I can understand his getting very depressed. It has been mentioned that Mr. Skrine represents by his views the London Association, but I think I am right in saying that Mr. Skrine only represents himself and one other gentleman. He certainly does not represent the London Association. If I am wrong, Mr. Loudoun Shand will perhaps correct me. (*Cheers*).

THE PROPOSER'S REPLY.

Mr. HUYSHE ELIOT: I think you will agree with me that Mr. Skrine has made out a very bad case for the opponents of the cess. Mr. Thomas has most ably seconded him in a weak case. (*Laughter*). You then have Mr. Rollo. Mr. Rollo told us that he owed his present affluent position to the work the cess had done in America. (*Loud laughter*). Mr. Skrine has referred to the work done in France and Germany, and I can only reiterate the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Rosling in which he said that was a very good reason why we should continue. In spite of the figures Mr. Skrine has inaccurately given, the Ceylon exports—I am subject to correction—are not behind, but the combined exports of India and Ceylon are behind for 1907. I don't think there is more for me to refer to, except that Mr. Skrine mentioned that he did not mean what he said about the fact of Mr. Mackenzie being "got rid of." I would ask him to withdraw what he said about the American "sharpers." I do not think it would be at all advisable for the pioneering of our business in America that that should get into the press. (*Hear, hear*).

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the word was a little strong.

Mr. SKRINE: I said, "sharp business men," not sharpers, and I do not withdraw.

Mr. ROSLING: You used the word sharpers.

Mr. SKRINE: What I meant by sharpers was "sharp business men."

The CHAIRMAN: Then you agree to correct the words?

Mr. SKRINE: You are so hypercritical in these days. I have corrected it as far as I can. What I meant to say was "sharp business men," not "sharpers."

The CHAIRMAN: You used the word "sharpers," which bears rather a different meaning.

Mr. M. H. THOMAS: It reminds me, Mr. Chairman, of an incident in the House of Commons. Mr. Disraeli had characterised a letter which appeared in "*The Times*" from a Member of the House as the effort of his "cursive" and "cursing pen." On being called to order by the member who wrote the letter for the use of the word "cursed," he replied, amidst the laughter of the House, that no consideration on earth would have induced him to use the past participle. (*Laughter*). Mr. Skrine evidently had no intention of using the comparative degree. (*Laughter*).

The amendment was put to the meeting, and four voted against it, including Mr. Skrine's young son, who sat by his side.

Mr. Dunbar said one of the gentlemen who had voted was not a member of the Association and had no right to vote.

Mr. SKRINE: Has the gentleman who has spoken paid his own ticket, for this gentleman (indicating his son) has? I seem to have come back to Ceylon to quite a new set of gentlemen—(cries of "order")—absolutely hypercritical, finding fault on the slightest provocation.

Sixty-five voted against the amendment.

The original motion was then put to the Meeting, and 65 voted for, and 4 against it.

COFFEE.

Grading Brazilian Coffees.

U. S. Consul-General G. E. Anderson reports from Rio de Janeiro that the adoption of the New York classification for grading Brazilian Coffees which has obtained practically in Brazil for a long time and which now has more or less official sanction through the action of the Santos Commercial Association in issuing a formal syllabus of the system, has met with considerable opposition in Brazilian Coffee circles and may have some very important results in the Coffee Markets of the world. Mr. Anderson continues:—

The Committee of the National Association of Agriculture of Brazil, which was recently named to consider the matter, has published a protest against the New York classification and is carrying on agitation against a continuation of present methods of selling the Brazilian product. The Committee objects to the New York classification favoured by the Santos Association on the ground, first, that the recent action was not representative of Brazilian Coffee interests; secondly, the adoption of the New York classification promotes speculation rather than legitimate selling, resulting in violent oscillations in the prices of Coffee and prejudicing interests dependent upon the product. In the third place, the committee declares that inasmuch as the types best known to consumers as Java, Mocha, Porto Rico, and the like are mostly composed nowadays of Brazilian Coffees without any recognition of the fact being made, while the Coffees generally known as Brazilian are those of inferior grades, the waste Coffees, in fact, it is necessary for the protection of Brazilian Coffee interests that the present New York system shall be done away with, so that the higher grades of Brazilian Coffee now known under other names shall be presented to consumers as what they really are. Lastly, the Committee favours an ideal classification based upon chemical analysis.

Whether there will be any change in the present method of grading Coffee as a result of this new agitation in Brazil remains to be seen, but in connection with the propaganda movement in favour of Brazilian Coffees as such the indications are that there will be a very determined movement to break up the present methods of selling Coffee to the American consumer.

Valorization.

The *American Grocer* remarks:—

"About one-half of the world's visible supply, consisting of desirable merchantable grades, is locked up and its integrity maintained by the Government of Sao Paulo, backed by some of the largest capitalists in the world.

"The legal restriction placed on the extension of Coffee planting in Brazil will in time turn out a mistaken policy. It stimulates production in the minor Coffee-growing countries, but it impairs the future productive value of existing plantations in Brazil and leads to a time when the world's supply will be so far below its requirements that prices will rise to double existing quotations and inaugurate a fever for new plantations which in time will bring about an excess of production.

"That has been the history of the past and it is more certain to become the fact in the future because of valorization and the law forbidding the extension of the industry in that Colossus of production, Brazil, to which we look for 75 to 80 per cent. of the world's supply."

RUBBER.

Rubber-tapping Patterns: The Chain-gamma.

The following are the diagrams referred to on page 30 of the present volume (issue of February, 1908):—

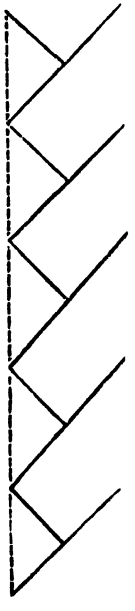


FIG. 1.

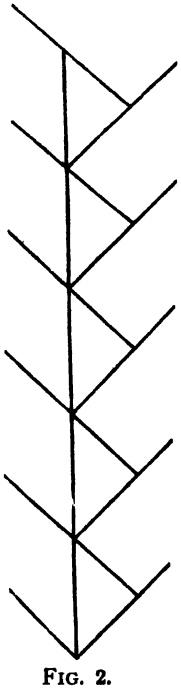


FIG. 2.

Cost of Rubber Production.

On one estate in the Kalutara District of Ceylon the cost of production of Rubber is stated to be about 1*s.* 0½*d.* per lb. f.o.b. As the result of detailed inquiries the editor of the *India Rubber World* furnished an estimate of the cost of getting Brazil Rubber to England. To land the product at Liverpool, this journal said, would entail an outlay of at least 10½*d.* per lb., and if to this is added the export duty of 11½*d.* per lb. imposed by the Brazilian Government the net cost is 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb. The estimate for Peru is lower, notwithstanding the longer journey to Europe, being reckoned to amount to no more than 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. But in Peru the Rubber export duty is only 1*d.* per lb., as against 11½*d.* in Brazil.

To Investigate the Rubber Industry

Mr. Fred. T. Waterhouse, Special Commissioner of the Hawaiian Rubber Growers' Association, has been sent to investigate the Rubber Industry in the Straits Settlements and Ceylon. He is also the Special Commissioner of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry of the Territory of Hawaii "to investigate the rubber and other agricultural enterprises in the Federated Malay States, Ceylon, Province of Johore, Straits Settlements and Java." Mr. Waterhouse has been through the Federated Malay States, and arrived in Ceylon in January last. He is principally interested in Ceará Rubber, which grows well and rapidly in Hawaii, and his mission to Ceylon was chiefly to learn as much as possible about the tapping and preparation of Ceará Rubber.

China Green Teas.

A writer in the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* (New York) remarks that China green teas are divided into two classes, Moyunes and Ping Sueys (Canton greens being rejected as "simply faked-up black teas that could never pass the American customs").

Moyunes come from Nankin and Fychow. They have great strength and pungency, but are coarse. There is a Moyune, however, with a pale cowslip scent flavor that is highly appreciated.

Ping Sueys lack the power and quality of Moyunes and are made for look and sold for price.

Green teas are classified as follows: (1) Gunpowder, (2) Young Hyson (3) Imperial, (4) Hyson, (5) Twankay and (6) Hyson Skin.

There is no doubt that China green teas still hold their own, and that, "own" is considerably ahead of anything as yet turned out by India or Ceylon. The cause is not far to seek. Green tea is unfermented; the liquor is naturally sharp, pungent and astringent. The inferior quality China plant is far more suitable for the manufacture of green tea than the indigenous or hybrid varieties grown in India and Ceylon. The inherent strength and pungency in the latter make the green tea manufactured from them too powerful.

The Russian Surtax on Tea.

Sir Edward Grey, on February 6th, in the House of Commons, in reply to a question, said that proposals regarding the surtax on Indian and Ceylon tea imported to Russia by the Black Sea route had been sent a few days ago to the Russian Government.

The following Table shows the quantities of crude Cacao, Coffee and Tea, respectively, imported into the United States in each fiscal year from 1890 to 1907 (in pounds):—

FISCAL. YEAR.	CRUDE CACAO.	COFFEE.	TEA.
1890	18,266,177	499,159,120	83,886,829
1891	21,539,840	519,528,432	83,453,339
1892	21,955,874	640,210,788	90,079,039
1893	24,460,325	563,469,068	89,061,287
1894	17,634,779	550,934,337	93,518,217
1895	29,307,048	652,208,975	97,253,458
1896	23,276,597	580,597,915	93,998,372
1897	31,406,612	737,645,670	113,347,175
1898	25,717,404	870,514,455	71,957,715
1899	35,512,364	831,827,063	74,089,899
1900	41,746,872	787,991,911	84,845,107
1901	45,924,353	857,018,121	89,806,453
1902	51,379,396	1,092,344,170	75,579,125
1903	63,351,294	923,253,821	108,574,905
1904	72,277,600	998,677,479	112,905,541
1905	73,815,895	1,046,028,441	102,706,590
1906	80,117,402	853,799,615	93,621,759
1907	92,249,819	966,595,923	86,368,490

Thus, the importations of Cacao have quintupled during a period in which the importations of Coffee have only doubled, and the importations of Tea have been almost stationary.

The African explorer, Carpenter, has found in Sassandra a new species of Coffee-plant, which is very abundant in some places, although it is a dwarf form, varying in height from three feet to less than a foot In their wild state the berries are not suitable for Coffee making, but it is hoped that by cultivation this plant may be improved, as other species in the Congo State have already been. At present the new plant is only a botanical curiosity.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

VOL. III.] APRIL, 1908. [No. 3.

The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

The Scientific Officer Scheme.

Replying on the 20/29th February, 1908, to a letter from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I, regarding financial assistance in respect to the proposed employment of a Scientific Officer to investigate the Planting industries in Southern India with a view to their improvement and development, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Travancore stated *inter alia* :—

' At the instance of the Madras Government, the Resident has addressed the Durbar on the subject. The Durbar has agreed to pay proportionate contribution towards the cost of procuring the services of an expert, on condition firstly, that such contribution does not, in any year, exceed Rs.2,000 (two thousand), and secondly, that the contribution stops with the five years for which period it is proposed to engage the officer. You will be glad to learn that a student is being trained in Europe in Agriculture at the expense of the Durbar and he is expected to join the Travancore Service within another three months As, at the end of the five years, he will have gained sufficient experience and his services will be available to all agriculturists in the State, including the Planting communities, it is unlikely that the Durbar will agree to any contribution after the expiry of the quinquennium."

An official communication from the Government of Mysore states that a contribution of Rs 1,000 per year for five years will be made.

It is unofficially reported that the Cochin Government will give Rs.500 per annum.

The question of a grant by the Coorg Administration has been put before the Government of India.

As regards the Government of India themselves, they state that they will be glad to give proposals on the subject their most careful consideration, but it is requested that the Association will in the first instance submit, through the Government of Madras, specific proposals showing the actual financial assistance desired, with a statement of the amounts to be subscribed by the various interested Associations.

Madras Planters' Labour Act.

Certain amendments to the Madras Planters' Labour Act, I of 1903, were suggested in October last by the Government of Madras. At the request of the Wynaad and Nilgiri Planters' Associations Government were asked to kindly postpone the amendment of the Act until the matter has been fully considered by the Planters concerned In an order dated 28th February, 1908, the Madras Government state that this request "will be reported for the information of the Government of India."

The British Tea Duty.

Mr. Stuart R. Cope, Secretary to the Anti-Tea-Duty League, has kindly sent three blocks illustrative of placards that are now being posted in various parts of the Home country. They are made use of in the present number, in order to give Planters an idea of the manner in which the League is trying to enlist popular sympathy in behalf of a reduction of the British Tea Duty. They explain themselves.

Tea in the United States.

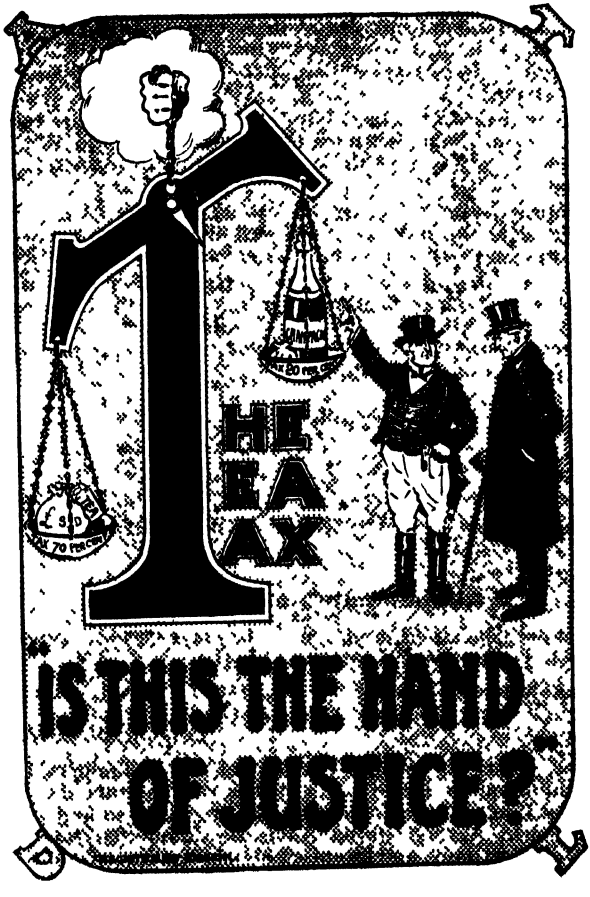
MR. J. MCKENZIE writes:—

"As we hope for an increase of the consumption of our tea in America, it seems to me that we cannot venture quite to ignore the existence of influences that tend to lessen the consumption of tea in that country. Of such influences not the least is that which perhaps I may term the Sanitarium and Restaurant movement. This arose many years ago in the great Battle Creek Sanitarium which accommodates something under a thousand of chronic invalids and from this initial Institute have sprung lately nearly 30 other large Sanitariums in the most important parts of the United States. Many thousands of rich and influential invalids pass through these Sanitariums yearly, returning to their homes in renewed health there to become a centre of the promulgation of the doctrine that the theine of tea and coffee poisons the tissues of those who partake of the refreshing cup, with stores of uric acid, which are inimical to robust health or the prolongation of life, which doctrine is earnestly insisted

upon by each of the thirty Sanitariums and by their allied sixteen important Restaurants in the most important centres in the States The magazines and literature circulated throughout America, in which this doctrine is earnestly enforced and illustrated, are very excellently got up, and ably edited, and although the work proceeds very quietly the results are none the less successful and widespread The heads of these various Sanitariums and Restaurants thoroughly and conscientiously believe in, and themselves act up to all they teach, so that the movement is spreading in different parts of the world and in the countries of Asia, Africa, Japan Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, etc, where similar Sanitariums have been established

"What is wanted at present is a Tea and Coffee Magazine attractively and ably edited by experts, who shall, in its pages, meet the arguments and statements of all opponents to the Tea and Coffee Industry

"I shall probably be laughed at by not a few Planters who will accuse me of trying to make a mountain out of a tiny little mole-hill, however, I have made very thorough enquiries into the movement in America, and am satisfied that it is no mere passing fad of the moment, but a very thoroughly organized movement which cannot be arrested by any ordinary means The Public of America are satisfied to obtain at these Sanitariums, renewed vigour and health, consequently adopting the above theory enthusiastically.



Indian Green Tea Bonus.

A Circular, dated 10th March, 1908, issued by the Indian Tea Cess Committee at Calcutta, regarding bonus to encourage the manufacture of Indian Green Tea, states:—

At the half-yearly meeting of the Indian Tea Cess Committee held on the 24th February, 1908, it was resolved that a bonus of six pies per pound be offered on two million pounds of green tea to be manufactured on Indian estates, and to be exported during the year ending 30th April, 1909.

In accordance with this Resolution the Executive Committee have framed the following rules:—

(1) The bonus will be paid on green teas made in India and exported to foreign countries, including any part of the British Empire outside of India.

(2) The Committee reserve the right to refuse payment of the bonus in any case where (after examination of the samples drawn under Rule 5) they consider the Tea unsuitable from coarseness of leaf, error in manufacture, or unsound condition. No bonus will be paid on dust.

(3) The Committee recommend those making green tea for the first time to submit samples of their early manufacture for examination. The leaf to be used for the manufacture of green tea should not be coarser than that ordinarily plucked for black tea manufacture.

(4) When teas upon which bonus is claimed have arrived at port of shipment, samples must be drawn, and sent to the Committee; and on approval of these, and on proof of export, the bonus will be paid.

(5) Proprietors or Agents of Gardens who are prepared to manufacture green tea during the season 1908, should fill up the accompanying form, and return it to the Secretary not later than 30th April, 1908.

(6) Any dispute arising as to the interpretation or working of the foregoing Rules shall be referred to the Tribunal of Arbitration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to be determined in accordance with the Rules for the time being of the Tribunal.

The form of application is as follows:—

To The Secretary,
INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE,
Royal Exchange Building,
2, *Clive Street, Calcutta.*

I am / We are prepared to make lbs. of green tea during season 1908 on the terms provided by the Rules, dated 10th March, 1908.

Signature

A Rubber Exhibition in London.

A copy of the following Circular letter has been kindly forwarded by the Curator, Mysore Government Gardens and Parks:—

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER AND ALLIED TRADES EXHIBITION.
75, Chancery Lane (Holborn),
London, W. C., *February 21st.*

DEAR SIR,—Since forwarding you copy of the Preliminary Prospectus of the above Exhibition, the Board of Trade has certified that the Exhibition is an international one, and my Committee have received support far exceeding their expectations. A very strong Advisory Committee has been formed, and is being added to daily, and promises of support have been received from a number of the Rubber Producing centres, so that there is every prospect of

this, the first Rubber Exhibition held in Europe, having an excellent display of raw Rubber. The manufacturers who create a demand for the raw material are also giving the Exhibition their best support, and its success is now assured. At the same time, as Organising Manager, I wish the undertaking to be as complete and representative as possible, and trust your country will make a display such as will further help to make known to the manufacturing world the quality and value of the rubber produced.

My Committee are making special arrangements for Saturday, the 21*st September*, by inviting representatives of the Press (all the principal journals, technical and otherwise), to inspect the exhibits. They will then be entertained by my Committee, and several addresses will be given, explaining the very many uses not adopted at the present time that rubber can be put to, so that these suggestions, through the Press, may go forward to the world and create a greater and increasing demand.

I therefore ask if you will kindly make the Exhibition known as widely as possible, and assist in any way that will bring greater success to the Exhibition.

Thanking you in anticipation.—I am, yours truly,

A. STAINES MANDERS.

Organising Manager.

Later, another copy of the above letter was kindly sent in by the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson, who wrote as follows:—

"I send you a letter from the Organising Manager of the International Rubber Exhibition to be held in London. In view of the increasing areas being planted with Rubber in S. India it appears to me that it would be a sound policy if the Districts interested in Rubber formed a Committee to consider sending some sort of Exhibit to the exhibition. Even if only photos. showing the growth of trees, etc., they would be of interest and would bring S. India before the Public as a Rubber-growing country. We may be sure that Ceylon and the Straits will not fail to make use of the opportunity of blowing their respective trumpets!

"I have been asked to join the Advisory Committee, and would do so if Rubber Planters think I could be of any use to them. I shall be in England at the time of the Exhibition and should be glad to do anything asked of me in the matter."

The Planting Member points out that from the list given in the margin of the letter from the Organising Manager it appears that S. India is about the only Rubber-growing country so far unrepresented on the Advisory Committee of the International Rubber Exhibition.

Mr. Manders has been asked to kindly forward some forms of application to the Editor of *The Planters' Chronicle*, who will be glad to hear from any Planters, or others, who are desirous of exhibiting.

Subsequent telegraphic advices state that the support given has been so great that the Exhibition will be held in the grounds of "Olympia" (instead of at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, as originally proposed).

A word of acknowledgment is also due to the Director of Agriculture, Madras, who also forwarded a copy of the Organising Manager's letter, and the prospectus of the Exhibition, to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

In proceedings of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, printed on another page, reference is made to certain correspondence on the above subject. The following remark appears in abstract of proceedings of a later meeting of the Association, held on 10th March, 1908:—

Ceylon Import Duty.—In connection with the reference made to this matter in the proceedings of last meeting, the Committee were informed by

the Government of India on 5th March that the Secretary of State for India has been asked to furnish Government with a copy of the correspondence that is understood to have passed between the Colonial Secretary and the Government of Ceylon.

A copy of Mr. J. W. Morris' "Guide to Bangalore and Mysore Directory for 1908" has been forwarded to us. This publication is now firmly established in public favour, and the latest issue is both larger and better arranged than those issued in earlier years. It comprises a Coorg Directory, and is a very useful work of reference.

Mr. J. W. Morris, of Bangalore, has also brought out a new edition of "Gardening in Bangalore, with Notes on Kitchen Gardening," originally published by Co'onel E. Boddam, Honorary Secretary, Mysore Agri-Horticultural Society. Mr. Geo. Hodson, the well-known Florist and Seedsman, contributes a "Garden Calendar" and a Prefatory "Note." The booklet is an excellent one, and much of the contents is still as valuable as it was when originally published; yet it seems a pity that a few obvious errors should not have been corrected. The general utility of the book is, however, beyond question, and Mr. Morris has done the public good service by rescuing it from oblivion.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The Travancore Cardamom Hills Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held, by kind permission of MR. H. M. KNIGHT, *at Surianalle, on the* 6th *March* 1908.

Present:—Mr. H. M. KNIGHT (*Chairman*); Messrs. K. E. NICOLL, V. EDWARDS, E. G. CAMERON and J. J. MURPHY (*Honorary Secretary*); represented by proxy: Messrs. J. A. HUNTER, G. N. THOMSON, and C. M. F. ROSS.

The Honorary Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Honorary Secretary's Report.

Finance.—The accounts laid on the table show that the Association has a balance in hand of Rs.719-0-0.

Crop.—I regret that I have been unable to obtain from the Cardamon Office crop statistics for 1906 and 1907. The Cardamon Hills Superintendent states that he has no means of ascertaining the quantity of crop exported. Considering that all crop has to pass through the Customs stations, the quantity might easily be checked. Very interesting crop figures have been obtained from Mysore—thanks to the courtesy of the Mysore Government. The Honorary Secretary of the Annamalais Planters Association has also kindly sent us interesting information. These papers are laid on the table.

Prices.—Have improved very much since 1905. It is reported that 4,000 to 5,000 acres are to be planted with Cardamoms this year.

Roads.—The road between Satharangapara and Devicolam has been very much improved, but from Satharangapara to Kumile the path is a disgrace to the district.

The deviation proposed by the Association between Pambadampara and Satharangapara was inspected by Mr. Vernede and, I understand, favourably reported on by him, but the Public Works Department take absolutely no interest in the District and have not moved in the matter. His Highness's Government derive a large revenue from the Cardamon Hills, and this, owing to the large area of new land taken up this year, from now on will be much increased, and it does not seem unreasonable to expect that means of communication should be improved. The upkeep of the roads has been taken over by the D. P. W. The work in places leaves much to be desired.

Outlet Roads.—Of the roads sanctioned by the former Dewan, Mr. Madhava Rao, one only down the Patthinettempadi Ghat has been cut and paid for. The Executive Engineer wrote to the Superintendent of Satharangapara Estate in reference to the proposed paths down the Kuthira-Panjam and Thavaram Ghats, "You may proceed with the work." This was on the 23rd December last, and on the 22nd January the Acting Chief Engineer wrote that the roads were not to be cut till further notice. In the meantime, however, considerable progress had been made with the works. In regard to the Ramakal path matters are at a standstill. The authorities on the British India side gave the Association permission to improve the present path, which runs through reserved forest, making it 5 feet wide. With this information before him the Executive Engineer directed that the path should be made 6 feet wide and that jungle clearing should be done on both sides of the path, 10 feet on the upper and 5 feet on the lower slopes. Even were the Madura Forest Department to allow us 6 feet road with jungle clearing on both sides of it, it would be quite impossible to improve the road according to the D. P. W. specifications for the money voted by His Highness's Government, *viz.*, Rs.500.

Surveys.—The re-survey ordered by Mr. Madhava Rao in 1905 has not yet been completed, and to many of us the delay has caused much inconvenience. The old survey was admittedly wrong, but assessment is being charged according to it, and no allowance is made for land relinquished and cut out.

Popular Assembly.—Our thanks are due to Mr. H. M. Knight for having ably represented us at the last Assembly.

I now tender my resignation.

The Chairman's Speech.

GENTLEMEN,—I have not much to add to the Honorary Secretary's Report. It deals fully with most matters of importance, and I am sure we are all much obliged to him for the interest he has taken in the Association's work. As requested by you, I attended the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly on the 18th November last. The Dewan, in reply to our complaint as to delay in surveys and issue of pattah, said that the work would be hurried on. In regard to means of communication, I substituted "bridlepath" for "cart road" in the question we had given notice of. The Dewan replied:—"I am very glad that the member has withdrawn the request for a cart road and substitutes in lieu a bridlepath, because a cart road is out of the question. There is now before Government an estimate for improving the existing bridlepath and bridging certain streams, including the deviation proposed. Government recognise the importance of the work and will sanction the estimate. Action is being taken with reference to outlet paths" An amendment to the Cardamom rules proposed by the ryots' representative, Mr. Sinna Swami Chetty, was, in a modified form, supported by me. The rules have now been altered, new lands are not to be auctioned, and the acreage value will be recovered in these annual instalments.

A vote of thanks to Mr H.M. Knight for having represented the Association at the Popular Assembly was proposed by Mr. Nicoll and unanimously agreed on

Roads.—In reference to the Acting Chief Engineer's letter No. 55 of the 24th January, Mr. Nicoll said, that work on the Kuthira-Panjam and Thavaram Ghat roads was commenced immediately on receipt of the Executive Engineer's permission and cannot now be stopped without serious loss. The Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Chief Engineer on the subject.

Resolutions—The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

Roads.—Proposed by Mr. Nicoll, seconded by the Chairman: "That the attention of Government be invited to the condition of the road between the Gudumpanniyar and Panniyar Bridge P. O There have been numerous washouts, the bridge across the Santhampara river has been carried away, and the Mulamuniar bridge is in an unsafe condition requiring immediate attention." Proposed by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Edwards: "That the Executive Engineer be requested to revise his specifications for the improvement of the Ramakal road."

U. P. A. S. I.—Proposed by Mr. Nicoll, seconded by Mr. Murphy: "That this Association subscribe to the U. P. A. S. I. at the rate of eight pies per cultivated acre."

Postal.—Proposed by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Murphy: "That the Superintendent of Post Offices be again asked to consider the question of sanctioning a runner between Thavaram and Bodainaikannur."

Office-bearers.—Mr. Nicoll thanked the retiring Chairman and Honorary Secretary for the work they had done for the Association during the past six years and regretted that they both desired to relinquish office. He understood that they intended shortly to leave for Home, where he hoped they would thoroughly enjoy their well-earned holiday.

Mr. Knight in a few appropriate words returned thanks. Mr. Murphy also briefly replied.

Mr. Nicoll was then asked to take office as Chairman and Honorary Secretary. He said it would be a pleasure to him to do his best for the Association till the return of Messrs. Knight and Murphy.

The Meeting then closed.

K. E. NICOLL,

Chairman and Honorary Secretary.

North Mysore Planters' Association.

The Annual General Meeting of this Association was held at the Balehonnur Estate Bungalow on the 10th March, 1908.

Present.—Messrs. C. H. BROWNE (*President*), E. C. BOLTON, C. DANVERS, H. PILKINGTON, F. J. PARTON, W. L. LINCOLN, R. G FOSTER, L. P. KENT, W. P. ALLARDICE, H. G. BONNER, C. S. CRAWFORD, A. F. EVATTS, W. H. REED, O. SCOT-SKIRVING, E. W. FOWKE, THOS. HUNT, H. M. NORTHEY, F. W. HIGHT, C. H. TREVOR-ROPER, and C. P. REED (*Honorary Secretary*).

By Proxy.—E. LUND, S. L. MATHIAS, DANIEL MATHIAS, CLAUDE COURPALAIS, E. N. LESLIE, C. H. GODFREY. *Visitor.*—Mr. H. WATSON.

Honorary Secretary's Report.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the accounts for past year.

Since the last General Meeting 7 new Members have joined and 13 Estates put on the register of the Association. The Malaisengooda estate (Arbuthnot & Co., in liquidation) still remains on the register, 2 years in arrears; one other estate on the Bababoodens (Muskulmurdie) is in arrears.

I have to thank the Members for paying up their subscriptions so promptly, as it saves a lot of trouble in dunning. The revenue for the past year has been, from subscriptions Rs.1,199-7-0 and from interest on deposit account Rs.122-3-0, giving a total of Rs,1,321-10-0, against which there has been an expenditure of Rs.696-2-6, leaving a surplus of Rs.625-7-6 on the year's work.

The funds of the Association stand at Rs.4,310-15-9 as per the cash statement laid before you.

It seems to have been customary for the Honorary Secretary to make a few remarks on the work done during the year, but as the President will doubtless refer to such in his address, it is unnecessary for me to say more Gentlemen, I beg to submit my resignation of the Honorary Secretaryship.

President's Speech.

GENTLEMEN,

The season just drawing to a close has produced some of the finest crops ever recorded in the annals of coffee planting in Mysore and seeing as we have done, estates bearing crops of 5 cwts an acre and upwards over large areas makes it apparent that King Coffee has a lot of life in him yet. I regret however to say, that on certain estates, in a part of this district, which entered the Monsoon with to all appearances bumper crops, it was found in July in some cases, fully half the berries were empty. I am glad to say this extraordinary failure was confined to a comparatively small area, generally speaking crops have been excellent.

As is invariably the case when crops are good the quality is poor, and although the prices paid for our coffee which has so far reached the London market are above the level of the past few years, we are not realizing the high prices the trade is undoubtedly willing to pay for quality.

Now, Gentlemen, I do not propose trespassing on your time by giving you a detailed account of the year's work. We have endeavoured, as far as practicable, to keep you in touch with current business, and as I said, on a previous occasion, when in doubt, refer to your *Chronicle*.

Popularization of Coffee.—At the last U. P. A. S. I. Meeting it was resolved to advise the adoption of an export cess of 3 annas per cwt. on coffee, to provide the funds necessary for the Coffee Popularization Campaign. The London Committee is in correspondence with other coffee-producing countries, with a view to securing their co-operation and it seems likely the scheme may be successfully floated.

Seeing that by an expenditure of £35,000 on the "Currant Propaganda" the price of currants was doubled, and it is estimated by a competent authority the small country of Greece was benefitted to the extent of £16,000,000, we must, I think, be of one mind. The sooner the cess is imposed, and the work taken in hand, the better.

Subscription to U. P. A. S. I.—The head Association suffered a heavy loss by the failure of Messrs Arbuthnot and Co., and at the last Meeting in Bangalore, it was proposed by the delegate from Central Travancore, that subscriptions in future be raised on a uniform acreage basis, as being a more businesslike and satisfactory arrangement than the present one. The proposition is sound and deserves our support; I trust all District Associations will see their way to supporting it.

At present we contribute Rs.400 per annum to the U. P. A. S. I.; under the proposed acreage assessment, on our 1907 acreage, we should be called upon to pay Rs.416. Since then, I am glad to say, 13 estates have been added to our roll of Members, considerably enhancing our area, and we should now probably be called upon to pay Rs.500. I feel sure it is the wish of all Members that we should not shirk our responsibilities.

Scientific Officer.—In accordance with a Resolution passed at our last General Meeting, a subscription list was circulated, close on Rs.900 was subscribed and we were able to guarantee a minimum contribution of Rs.800 per annum towards the Fund.

The Madras Government has adopted a sympathetic attitude, but considers, rightly, that so much of the land under Tea, Coffee and Rubber is situated in Native States, they may fairly be asked to contribute their quota of the cost. The Madras Government is in communication with the several Native States interested, and that, gentlemen, is how the matter now stands.

At our last General Meeting the Honorary Secretary was requested to write to the Conservator of Forests and invite him to meet the Members of this Association to discuss, and we trusted, arrive at some *modus vivendi* in regard to this objectionable rule. In due course a courteous reply was received from Mr. Muthannah, expressing his willingness to meet us, he hoped in February: I had trusted to arrange that our General Meeting should coincide with his visit; however, as we heard nothing further from him, and a month's clear notice has to be given, we fixed on to-day as the latest suitable date before Members leave the district for a well-earned holiday. We have now heard from Mr. Muthannah that he will be at Balehonnur on Saturday the 14th, and I hope you will find it convenient to meet him. I fear under the circumstances we shall hardly get together such a representative gathering as we should have wished.

Complaints have been made by several Members that the delivery of our Mails is not as expeditious as it might be, and that there is room for a good deal of improvement Amongst other delays to which our letters are subjected, it appears, that our Mails from Madras which reach Bangalore at 6 A. M. and might be sent by the day train and reach Kadur the same afternoon, actually lie in Bangalore some 16 hours before they are sent forward. The Postmaster-General has been addressed on the subject, and has promised to give the matter his careful attention.

Gentlemen, I now come to a subject which is of vital importance to us all. I refer to the Supply of Labour.

For several years past it has become apparent that the Supply of Labour was unequal to all our requirements, and the matter received some attention at our last General Meeting. Since then, we have received a letter from the South Mysore Association, in which they tell us labour difficulties have with them reached the acute stage and asking us to meet them in Conference to discuss the subject.

To-day a proposal will come before you to revert in certain parts of the district to the old rates of pay which prevailed prior to the reduction in 1900. I say advisedly, in certain parts of the district, because in certain parts it was not reduced.

With a view to obtaining some "data" to lay before you to-day, we drafted a series of questions, a copy of which was sent to each Member, and in most cases replies were sent in.

With the exception of some Members whose estates lie in the vicinity of the Ghauts, and are naturally very advantageously situated, as regards Coast

labour, practically all admit the scarcity of labour; as regards raising pay the Bababoodan men are already paying the higher scale. So they are not interested; of those who are, 25 sent in returns, 15 are in favour of an increase, 8 are against, and 2 prefer to sit on the fence.

Gentlemen, if you will bear with me a little longer, I will briefly sketch the history of our Labour Supply in Mysore. In the earlier stages of coffee planting in Mysore, we depended almost entirely on Mysore labour, mostly recruited in the maidan Taluqs of the Province. We had then to deal with an extremely intelligent class of people, they worked 6 days a week, and were not averse to working seven; they came to us to make money and they made it. Attracted doubtlessly by better wages elsewhere, they came in diminishing numbers, so far back as twenty years ago, and when we reduced our rate of pay they cleared out to a man. As the Canarese disappeared, labour from South Canara took its place, first invading the estates along the Ghaut, year by year it has come up in increasing thousands, but is turning to other industries.

When first the South Canara cooly came to the coffee district, he was a serf, his master sent him and took his pay. Since then, he has learned a lot, he found liberty here and liberty is proving his ruin. From being a healthy and industrious workman, he is becoming a sickly lazy loafer, he works 3 or 4 days a week, the other days and nights are spent in cock-fighting and playing cards, his object is to work just as little as will suffice to get him food-money on Saturday, as often as not he loses his money at cards, as soon as he gets it, and he and, I regret to say, his family starve and suffer in health in consequence.

I will read you an extract from a letter received from Mr. Mathias, a Native gentleman, a Member of this Association and a large landowner both in Mysore and South Canara; he may be accepted as an authority on this subject. He writes:—

"With the obvious advantages of being a resident Native of South Canara, and a landholder of some consideration, &c., I experience difficulty in recruiting coolies in sufficient number. The Pariah class of coolies is mostly falling off. It is attributed chiefly to the new industries connected with Rubber and Manganese, and the facilities of emigration offered by the new railway connection with Mangalore. The fall in the Pariah population may also be traced to its imprudent ways of life. In former times, before they became familiar with Mysore, they lived on agricultural lands as serfs in return for wages in kind. The Pariah had then a poor acquaintance with money in cash. These days of heavy advances, however, have changed it all and tempt him to extravagance and vices, such as gambling and cock-fighting. He incurs heavy marriage expenses and spends lavishly on devil worship with the result that he starts a pauper for the Ghauts. To work out his advance he has to economise his weekly advances. Even then, he persists in his extravagance and vicious courses and has practically to starve at the week-end along with his family and become a prey to malaria and other ailments, which not only disable many from doing work, but also kill some. The idea of saving anything for food and clothing from his advance is unknown to him I am in favour of raising the daily wages of every cooly man to 4 annas and of every cooly woman to 2 annas and 8 pies who can work for not less than 6 months in the year."

Gentlemen, Canarese, Tamils and Lumbanies are gone, and South Canara is the only recruiting ground left us; and since the railway was opened last year recruiters from other districts have appeared on the scene, it is no longer our special preserve.

In connection with our industry the price of everything is rising, excepting coffee itself, which keeps down and in face of the enormous stocks, no immediate improvement seems probable. The present is a bad time to increase our expenditure, but labour we must have.

The question you have to decide to-day is whether you will revert to the old scale of wages, in the hope of stopping desertion to other industries, or

whether you will let your labour go and then raise your pay, perhaps, 50 % to get it back.

Labour Supply.—It was proposed by Mr. Parton and seconded by Mr. Pilkington, "that owing to the undoubted scarcity of labour in the planting district of North Mysore due to (1) locally to more lucrative employment in areca gardens and paddy fields; (2) and elsewhere, in South Canara, and the maidan Taluqs of the Province—this Association do raise men's pay from 3½ to 4 annas per diem, the change to take place on the 1st June, 1908."

After an animated discussion Mr. Hunt brought forward the following amendment :—

"That instead of raising pay a bonus of ½ an anna per day be given to each man who has worked 6 days a week, such bonus to be paid weekly and that the Maistry be given commission on the bonus."

The amendment was put to the Meeting and lost, 13 for, and 38 against.

On Mr. Parton's proposition being put to the Meeting it was carried—47 for, and 11 against.

Popularization of Coffee.—Resolved that the Association endorses the action of their delegate to the U. P. A. S. I.

Subscription to U. P. A. S. I.—Resolved, "that this Association approves the Central Travancore Planters' Association's suggestion of subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. being fixed on an acreage basis not to exceed 8 pies an acre."

50 *Yards Rule.*—The Chairman suggested that discussion of this subject be deferred until after the Meeting with the Conservator of Forests on the 14th instant. He said the Members appreciated the friendly spirit in which Mr. Muthannah had responded to their invitation. Such a meeting, where the planting community were able to discuss a grievance with the head of a department, would, he felt sure, result in a better understanding. A Committee of the following gentlemen were elected to meet Mr. Muthannah on the 14th instant. Messrs. Pilkington, Browne, Foster, Northey, Evetts, Crawford, Kent, Danvers, Reed and Hight.

Kalasa Ghat Road.—Resolved, "that the Governments of Mysore and South Canara be approached as regards the construction of a new road to connect Kalasa with the existing Kotagahara-Mangalore main road joining near Belthangady."

Government Inspection of Lands.—Resolved, "that the Deputy Commissioner be asked to issue orders that Assistant Commissioners, Amildars, Forest officers, and others who are ordered to inspect lands applied for, or holdings already occupied for revenue purposes, should give sufficient notice to the applicant for or holder of such land to enable him to meet the officer so deputed and be present during his inspection. At present these inspections are usually made without any notice, with the result that where there is any opposition facts are misrepresented and only one side of the question is heard and unfair reports are in consequence sent in to the District Officer."

Gambling.—Resolved, "that the attention of the Mysore Government be drawn to the enormous amount of gambling that goes on in the district, especially amongst South Canara coolies, and suggest that some steps be taken to mitigate the evil."

Balehonnur Riot Case.—Resolved, "that the records be sent to the Solicitors of the Association for an expression of their opinion."

Abolition of Committee.—Resolved, "that the Committee be abolished and that quarterly General Meetings be held."

Election of Officers.—The following were elected :—Messrs C. H. Browne (*President*), C. Danvers (*Vice-President*), and C. P. Reed (*Honorary Secretary*).

After Mr. O. Scot-Skirving had proposed a vote of thanks to the President and Honorary Secretary, the Meeting closed.

C. P. REED,
Honorary Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held at Meppadi Club, on 11th March, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. C. E. ABBOTT, H. ATZENWILER, B. M. BEHR, A. TROLLOPE, and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Visitor.—Mr. F. F. MACKAY.

Mr. H. Atzenwiler in the Chair.

Proceedings of the last Meeting were confirmed.

General Correspondence read and approved.

1348. *Planting Member of Legislative Council.*—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson and his reply accepting Honorary Membership of the Association. Recorded.

1349. *Extradition.*—Read correspondence.

1350. *Tea Stealing.*—The Honorary Secretary reported he had heard from all Factories in the District, except two, joining in scheme of Passes for tea. He was asked to telegraph the two Members who have not replied and to address the Nilgiri Planters interested. He was instructed to obtain Books of Passes, and on receipt, to start the scheme in Wynaad.

1351. *Police Reward Fund.*—Read list of subscriptions received to date. List is still in circulation.

1352. *Police.*—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to District Superintendent of Police and his reply. Recorded with satisfaction.

1353. *Labour Law.*—Read letter from Honorary Secretary, Nilgiri Planters' Association. Attention of the Meeting was called to report of the last Meeting held of Nilgiri Association. The Honorary Secretary explained that he did not think the report reliable. Above letter dated 15th February is in reply to this Association letter of 20th November last, and does not refer to any matter as to which the Nilgiri Association is still waiting on us for information or make any reference to dilatoriness in correspondence.

Messrs. Abbott and Waddington were requested to arrange a Meeting with delegates from the Nilgiri Association. The delegates were particularly instructed to oppose the amendment of the Act on the lines proposed by Government relating to Sections 33 and 35.

1354. *Next Meeting.*—It was decided to hold the next Meeting on the second Wednesday in June, unless some urgent business occurs and the Honorary Secretary thinks it advisable to call a Meeting before.

1356. *Papers, etc., on the Table.*—U. P. A. Circulars Nos. 14 to 16.
I. T. A. Circulars Nos. 25 and 1
Tea Statistics, January 1908.
I. T. A. Report General Committee, 1907.
I. T. A. Report Annual General Meeting, February, 1908.
Agricultural Ledgers, Nutmegs.
Tamarinds.
Sunflowers.
Candle Nuts.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) H. ATZENWILER,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extracts from Abstract of the Proceedings of the First Meeting, held at Calcutta on the 25th February, 1908, of the General Committee elected for the year 1908-1909.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.—Mr Picktord proposed, and Mr. Warrington seconded, "that Mr. Kingsley should be appointed Chairman and Mr. Inglis, Vice-Chairman of the Association, for the ensuing year." The proposal was unanimously carried, and Mr. Kingsley and Mr. Inglis accepted office.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters, dated 24th and 31st January and 7th February, from the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, London, having been approved in circulation, were brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subjects dealt with in these letters, were as follows:—

(*a*). *Pilfering of Tea.*—In connection with this subject, which has recently been prominently before the Committee, a copy of a letter from a London Member to the Secretary of the London Association, which had been received with the latter's letter of 24th January, was considered. This referred to certain packages which had left Calcutta outwardly sound and on arrival in London had been found to have been pilfered; it was suggested that the General Committee should endeavour to take further steps to ascertain who was responsible.

The Committee were, however, agreed that unless some definite evidence were forthcoming as to the point of the journey at which the tampering took place, they could not usefully do anything. But it was decided to ask all Members to report to them any cases that should come under their notice, and at the same time to send information of each instance to the carrying Companies concerned with the carriage of the particular packages.

(*b*). *Russian Import Duty on Tea.*—Some time ago the Tea Buyers, Association and the Ceylon and Indian Tea Associations in London addressed to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs a representation on the question of the differential duty imposed on Indian and Ceylon teas entering Russia by the Black Sea and European Frontier. In a reply of 18th January, Sir Edward Grey informed them that he will not fail to endeavour to secure the abolition of the surtax as soon as the proper moment has arrived for again approaching the Russian Government on the subject.

Ceylon Import Duty.—A letter of 3rd February from the Government of India was in acknowledgment of a letter which the Committee addressed to them asking that they should be favoured with a copy of the correspondence that had taken place with the Planters' Association of Ceylon with reference to the joint memorial submitted from all the Planting Associations in India on this matter: Government wrote that no reference had been made to the Ceylon Association by them. It was agreed to again address Government as to whether a copy of the correspondence that had passed between them and the Home Government, between the Home Government and the Government of Ceylon, and between the latter and the Planters' Association, might be obtained.

Mosquito Blight.— *Read* letter from Messrs. Williamson, Magor & Co., suggesting that an experiment on a fairly large scale should be carried out to test the relative efficiency of kerosine oil emulsion and soap solution.

It was understood that the Scientific officers had already in contemplation some such work as Messrs. Williamson, Magor & Co. suggested, but it was decided to ask them definitely to undertake the experiment.

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

Committee Meeting.

The following are extracts from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon held at Kandy on Friday, the 13th March, 1908.

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER EXHIBITION.

Submitted correspondence from Ceylon Government, Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Staines Manders, Organising Manager, on the participation of Ceylon in this Exhibition.

READ letter from Mr. H. K. Rutherford, containing suggestions as to the collection and forwarding of exhibits.

Resolved:—"That the Ceylon Government be informed that this Committee is of the opinion that the Colony should be strongly represented at this Exhibition and that a Sub-Committee be appointed to act with the Chamber of Commerce in arranging details. The following were appointed a Sub-Committee to represent the Planters' Association:—Messrs. Huyshe Eliot, C. C. Mee, J. P. Anderson, E. Turner, Hon'ble Mr. E. Rosling, and the Chairman and Secretary, P. A."

LABOUR—GOVERNMENT COMMISSION—SINHALESE LABOUR.

READ letter from Colonial Secretary intimating that His Excellency the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council had decided that a Committee should issue to enquire into the conditions of Immigrant Labour in the Colony and to advise Government as to the action to be taken in regard thereto, also inviting the Planters' Association to nominate two of its members to serve on the proposed commission. One to represent the up-country districts and the other the low-country districts. After a ballot, Messrs. J. C Dunbar and J. P. Anderson were nominated to represent the Planters' Association

MR. JAS. WESTLAND'S SINHALESE LABOUR SCHEME.

READ letter from Colonial Secretary in reply to Resolution on above scheme, stating that,—"whilst the Government is desirous of doing all in its power to assist the Planting community in their labour difficulties," the particular scheme put forward by your Association of organising an official Labour Bureau does not commend itself to the Government.

"It appears to His Excellency that such a Bureau should be a private undertaking organised by the Planters' Association themselves; but if such a private Bureau were established, the Government would be prepared to assist the Bureau to come into touch with such sections of the Sinhalese as may be desirous of obtaining work on estates either temporarily or permanently."

Resolved:—"That this Committee would strongly urge upon Government that the subject of the employment of Sinhalese labour on estates be included in the scope of the Labour Commission enquiry.

COAST AGENCY—REGISTRATION, &C

Submitted following Resolutions from Coast Agency Sub-Committee:—(1). That Government be asked to continue their contribution to the Coast Agency pending the issue of the Labour Commission Report, especially in view of the large amount of labour that will be shortly required for public, works. (2). HAWKINS' RECRUITING AGENCY—That an advertisement be issued disclaiming any connection with above or any other Agency. (3). That the cordial approval of this Committee be minuted of Mr. Rowsell's work in organising and carrying on the Ceylon Labour Commission.

Resolved:—"That above Resolutions be adopted and approved."

REGISTRATION.

Resolved:—"That this Committee approve of the Forbes-Bliss scheme as being the best method, as yet submitted, of raising the funds for carrying out the Committee's proposals for registration of labour and free passages to coolies."

The Thirty Committee.

The following are extracts from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the "Thirty Committee" appointed to administer the proceeds of the export duty of tea levied under Ordinance No. 4 of 1894 for increasing the consumption on Ceylon tea in foreign lands, held at Kandy, on Saturday, the 14th March, 1908.

BRUSSELS UNIVERSAL & INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1910.

READ letter from the Colonial Secretary addressed to the P. A., and referred to "Thirty Committee," inviting an expression of opinion on the participation of Ceylon in above Exhibition.

Resolved—"That the Committee is strongly in favour of Ceylon participating in the proposed Exhibition, but that it be pointed out that owing to the stoppage of the 'Tea Cess' at the end of the current year no funds will be at the disposal of the 'Thirty Committee' to further the project."

CHINA TEA PROPAGANDA IN UNITED KINGDOM.

READ following Cablegram from India and Ceylon Joint Standing Committee forwarded *per* Mr. Martin Leake and crossing letter of January 22nd, on same subject addressed to him from the "Thirty Committee." "Strong feeling India Ceylon combat organised movement favour China tea, will 'Thirty Committee' grant £2,000. India doing same."—Intimated that telegram had been circulated to all members of the Committee and following reply despatched. "China. Committee favours same grant India, but waits full details."

Resolved—"That this Committee approves of a similar amount being granted to that contributed by India, but awaits detailed programme."

FINANCES.

Intimated that sanction had been received from Government for the appropriation of the following votes on account 1908:—Continent of Europe, Rs.75,000; Continent of America, Rs.77,250; Administration, Rs.10,000.

Resolved—"That the Secretary be instructed to obtain sanction for the appropriation of undermentioned additional votes:—Munich Exhibition, Rs.11,8,000; Advertising in America, Rs.30,000; China Propaganda, Rs 30,000; Report on Tea Industries, Rs.2,500."

CARDAMOM CESS.

Submitted correspondence.

Resolved—"That Messrs. Jas. Westland, Wm. Sinclair, W. L. Strachan and Hy. Storey be appointed a Cardamom Cess Committee, and that they be instructed to make enquiries as to the feasibility of instituting auction sales in Colombo for cardamoms, cocoa and other products."

CEYLON TEA IN AMERICA.

READ following cable received 22nd January, from Mr. Courtney: "Have requests six lectures February. 'Xmas Times only arrived here yesterday. Demonstrations very satisfactory. If it meets with approval under the circumstances I can remain 1st day of March when Wilson's advertising begins and I shall require £600. Telegraph as soon as possible."

Resolved—"That action of Chairman and Secretary in forwarding following reply be confirmed":—"Your telegram we agree to your proposal. Please remain during the month of February. I remit by telegraph £600."

READ letter from Col. R. W. Wilson with detailed programme for advertising Ceylon Tea in America from 1st March and estimate of expenditure amounting to 7,606·86.

Resolved—"That £2,000 be appropriated for advertising in America and that the Secretary's telegram of 15th February to Mr. Courtney be confirmed. "Please inform Wilson scheme approved. I remit by telegraph £400 on his account."

RUBBER.

Plantation vs. Brazilian Rubber.

In the course of a letter to the *Times of Ceylon*, Mr. R.W. Wickham, writing from Stroud under date 23rd Feb., says :—

Brazilian Rubber will not cease to be harvested when the price falls to 3*s*., nor even if it fall to 1*s*. 6*d*., for this reason—

Practically all rubber from the Amazon and its innumerable tributaries is paid for 18 months before it is received at Pará or Manaos, in the shape of goods, and a small amount of cash, given to the tappers.

The rivers above Manaos, from which most of the rubber comes, are only open to steamer and steam-launch traffic for certain months of the year, when the rivers are high, and this season is uncertain, as I know to my cost, having been stuck on a sand-bank for 26 days at a time when the river was usually full of water.

Thus, supplies to pay for the rubber now coming to Manaos were bought from July to September, 1906, reached Manaos in October-November of that year, and were sent up the rivers from January to April, when steamers could go up with certainty. The tapping season begins April and May, and continues during the season of low water. The first rubber comes down in November-December, and the bulk of it from February to April. Thus all the rubber coming to Manaos at the present time—and being sold there—hardly any is shipped direct by the producers, at present prices of, say 2*s*. 9*d*. per lb.—was paid for to all intents and purposes 18 months ago when the price was 5*s*. 3*d*. The rates at which goods were advanced say to the tappers were based on the 5*s*. 3*d*. price, and debited to the tappers' accounts at that price. The rubber they are now sending down can only be credited to them at the 2*s*. 9*d*. price. What the loss is to the big buying firms can hardly be imagined—Dusenchon, Wommensen & Co. are believed to buy 10,000 tons yearly!

The average per tapper is about 700 lbs. each, though some get as much as one ton, and these tappers take goods usually up to 75 per cent. or 80 per cent. of what they expect to get for their rubber. So, if a man expected to get, say, £140 for his 700 lbs. at 5*s*. 3*d*., less duty and trade allowance, he would have drawn from £105 to £112 in goods. Now, his rubber gets to Manaos and he is credited with only £70 at 2*s*. 9*d*., less duty and trade allowance.

Again, the "proprietor" who has charged £105 to £112 for these goods has paid, say, £65 to £80 for them, and, mark this, has paid at least 1½ per cent. per month interest for his credit. Nearly all "proprietors" are men without capital to speak of, and work on credit, and the rate of interest at Manaos is from 1½ to 3 per cent. per month.

Even at 1½ per cent. per month the 18 months' simple interest on £65 is £17 10*s*. So the unfortunate proprietor gets £70 worth of rubber in return for an outlay of £82 10*s*., and this in the most favourable instance. If he has paid £80 for goods and debited the tapper with £112, the tapper is £42 to the bad on the year's working and the proprietor £31 10*s*.! And thus on each 700 lbs. of rubber, £125 loss per ton.

Mr. R. J. Booth asks whether it pays to collect at 4*s*. 6*d*. On this I unhesitatingly contradict flatly the Chairman of the "Brazilian Rubber Trust, Ld." No, it does not, and cannot, pay the producer.

But the quantity continues to be exported for the reasons I have given above, because it is paid for 18 months ahead. Also there are numbers of wild natives collecting who do not bring their rubber to hand for two or three years after they get it. There are tons and tons of rubber up some of the rivers that cannot be shipped, because it was tapped some way back from the river bank and all the males in the district are dead. That rubber will come to hand in time, and Chairmen of Trusts will point to its export as proof that it pays to collect it at 1*s*. 6*d*.

It did not pay to sell coffee at 27*s.*, but it was sold; it did not pay to sell Ceylon tea at 3½*d.*, but it was sold.

Moreso, for the above reasons, in the case of rubber. And this it is that plays into the hands of the bears; they know that supplies will continue to come forward, as before, or even in increased quantities owing to the late boom in price, and so they can continue to scare the bulls.

It will not, however, affect the Ceylon or Malay industry seriously, as we now only produce a negligible quantity. By the time we begin to put into the market enough to affect stocks the rebound from the present slump must inevitably have come about. The Brazilian enterprise with its 40,000 tons cannot go on bearing a loss of £125 per ton. The quantity must fall off to the benefit of the Eastern, and Mexican, cultivated rubber.

Plantation *vs.* Wild Rubber.

The Times of Ceylon writes:—

The following is from an old resident with agricultural interests in Ceylon. We have not permission to give the writer's name, which would carry much weight, because he was not writing for publication. This fact, however, will be regarded by some as enhancing the value of the spontaneous opinions so vigorously expressed. The writer speaks of the inability of wild rubber to hold on at 2*s.* per lb. Possibly a small quantity would continue to be exported, but if upwards of three-fourths of the present quantity of Brazilian rubber would be wiped out at that figure—and on this the consensus of opinion is overwhelming—the over-supply problem would be solved in favour of Eastern cultivated rubber:—

Rubber.—I judge from your rather pessimistic views of the situation that the "croakers," of whom there are many at present here and abroad, have made their voice heard in the producing centres. I see no grounds whatsoever for alarm, even if prices decline another 1*s.* per lb. or more, and they may so decline while America remains in the present abnormal financial difficulties. Their buyers are entirely absent from the sales, and as they represent the world's largest consumers, we cannot expect any reaction in the market in favour of producers. The effect would be the same in every article of produce, if from any particular cause the main factor necessary to maintain prices—*i.e.*, competition for the largest outlet—was conspicuous by its absence. The world's consumption of rubber is increasing enormously, and it still ranks among the few products for which demand exceeds the supply, given normal conditions *generally*. The effects of extensions and development in the enterprise in the East will not be felt for at least five years, and from all I can gather by closely studying the subject, the additional supply of pure rubber of the plantation order will displace in an alarming degree so far as the Brazilian producer is concerned the "muck" that is at present placed on the market from the remote forests of the Amazon and the wilds of Central Africa. It was the same in coffee and in tea — so long as Ceylon and Mysore could produce the former in *superior* quality, the difference in value as compared with Brazil or Java was cent. per cent. per cwt., and it will, I take it, be the same as regards rubber. It is the enormous requirements of the trade that keep "Pará" in the neighbourhood of 3*s.* per lb. but, given a like quantity of plantation, offering on the markets, the existing disparity in relative value of say 6*d.* per lb. will, I am confident, be much greater and cause a material decrease if not actual cessation of supplies from the West. That there will be a fight in years to come between East and West, admits of no doubt, but I think everything points to plantation quality winning hands down and continuing to yield substantial returns on the cost of production for all concerns capitalised on a reasonable basis. There is no evidence worthy of the name to indicate that "Wild Rubber" can be produced at 2*s.* per lb. to pay, and until it is forthcoming and proved beyond a doubt we may dismiss the idea from our minds and sleep in peace o'nights! It is about on a par with the scare, wilfully spread abroad, of the market being flooded with a synthetic substitute, and only finds credence among Stock Exchange manipulators for their own base projects!

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Madras Planters' Labour Act.

The Government of Madras have recorded the following Reports from District Magistrates on the working of the Madras Planters' Labour Act, I of 1903, in 1907:—

In 57 out of the 81 prosecutions that ended in conviction, the sentences were cancelled at the request of the complainants and the accused were made over to them under Section 33 (2) of the Act. The Act appears to have worked successfully during the year.

The Nilgiris.

I have the honour to submit my Report on the working of the Planters' Labour Act (Act I of 1903) for the calendar year 1907.

2 The number of prosecutions instituted under the Act rose from 577 to 675 Seventeen of these were under Sections 23 and 24 of the Act, *i.e.*, by Planters against maistries and the rest were under Sections 29 and 30 by Planters or maistries against coolies. The bulk of the prosecutions was, as in the previous year, contributed by the Gudalur Taluq.

3. The subjoined table and the paragraphs below furnish the information called for in G. O., No. 418, Judicial, dated 4th March, 1907:—

Name of Taluq.	Number of estates in which the prosecutions arose.	Number of prosecutions in each Taluq	Remarks.
Ootacamund ...	1	4	675
Coonoor	20	141	
Gudalur	36	530	

The Wynaad.

I have the honour to submit my Report on the working of the Madras Planters' Labour Act, 1903, in the Wynaad, for the year 1907.

2. There were no cases in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate. Three cases were filed in the Sheristadar Magistrate's Court and one in the Tahsildar Magistrate's under Section 30 (1) of the Act. Of the former, one was dismissed under Section 204 (3), Criminal Procedure Code, and two were withdrawn; the case before the Tahsildar Magistrate was dismissed under Section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

3. In the Vayitri Sub-Magistrate's Court, where the greater part of the work under the Act has always occurred, 243 cases were filed as against 98 in 1905 and 191 in 1906. Details are furnished below:—

Year.	Section.				Total.
	23	24	30	36	
1905	1	37	60	...	98
1906	...	124	66	1	191
1907	...	116	125	2	243

Prosecution under Section 24.—Eighty-four out of the 116 cases were lodged by Planters against defaulting maistries, and 32 by maistries against their sub-maistries,

Section 30.—Only six cases were instituted by Planters; the remaining 119 being by maistries and sub-maistries against defaulting labours. Thus it is recourse to the Act by maistries and sub-maistries which has raised the number of cases brought under it.

Section 36.—Both the cases were instituted by a native Planter.

4. Twenty-three estates contributed to these 243 cases as against 18 in 1906 and 11 in 1905, the highest number presented by any one estate being 35. Two of the estates were owned by native proprietors. In 81 cases the accused were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, in 76 the complaints were withdrawn or dismissed under Section 247, Criminal Procedure Code, and in two cases the accused were acquitted. The remaining cases are pending.

Over 25 prosecutions were laid by each of the undermentioned estates:—

Coonoor Taluq—	
Woodlands	26
Tamalai	34
Gudalur Taluq—	
Suffolk	31
Tulloes	31
Glenvans	32
Kelly	43
Guynd	69
Devarashola	94

All these estates are of considerable area The opening of a large number of Rubber estates in Travancore, Cochin and Ceylon and the consequent competition for coolies appear to have been the special causes which led to the enforcement of the law in the estates where the number of prosecutions was high.

Another contributing cause is that the season of 1907 in Mysore and the Plains was better than in 1906. A good season leads to the evasion of contracts.

4. I consider that the Act has worked fairly both for Planters and for coolies.

Coffee Lands in Mysore.

The following Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore are published for reference.

READ—letter No. 8646, dated the 27th March, 1906, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding for orders letter No. 74, dated the 11th August, 1905, from the Deputy Commissioner of the Kadur District, regarding the applicability of Notification No. 8540—Ft. 64-03, dated the 11th March, 1905, to future grants of lands for coffee cultivation.

2. Note dated the 4th September, 1906, by the Conservator of Forests in Mysore, recording his opinion on the above.

3. Note dated the 26th September, 1906, by the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

4. Representative Assembly Subject No. 80 of 1907 regarding the reduction of upset price on coffee lands.

No. R. 5642-52—*Ft.* 183-05-2, *dated Bangalore*, 29*th February*, 1908.

ORDER THEREON.—The letter of the Revenue Commissioner read above raises the following questions:—

(1) What is the scope of Government Notification No. R. 8540—Ft. 64-03-9, dated the 11th March 1905, specifying the kinds of trees which are to be regarded as reserved, when lands are taken up for coffee cultivation, *i.e.*, what are the cases in which it is intended to apply—whether it applies merely in the case of future grants or applies also to lands already granted, in which the grantees have not acquired a full right to all the trees except sandal; and

(2) What are the considerations on which the upset price on such lands is to be calculated.

2. The first set of rules containing the terms on which coffee lands already granted were to be confirmed and the conditions applicable to such grants in future were issued with Notification No. 242, dated the 24th March, 1885. Para. 5 of the notification directs that six kinds of trees specified therein, besides sandalwood, are to be treated as reserve to Government in the case of lands which had already been granted for coffee cultivation, and para. 9 lays down that when any coffee lands are applied for thereafter they will ordinarily be sold publicly subject to an upset price, which would include survey expenses and the value of the reserved trees with the exception of the sandalwood. This upset price was, after some consideration, fixed at different rates for different localities by Government Order No. 1860-71, dated the 10th March, 1887. But subsequently these differences were abolished and a uniform rate of Rs.10 was introduced for all lands wherever situate, which were to be granted for coffee cultivation. These rules, as modified from time to time, have been finally embodied in the rules contained in Appendix E to the Land Revenue Rules of 1890, which regulate the grant of lands for coffee cultivation at present.

3. In 1905, however, the question of increasing the kinds of trees to be reserved to Government on lands given out for coffee cultivation arose on a reference from the Conservator of Forests, who was of opinion that the exclusion of all but sandal trees from the list of trees reserved to Government often led to applications being made for lands chiefly with the object of utilizing the timber trees contained therein and that the upset price which was levied did not in the majority of cases fairly represent the value of the timber trees acquired by virtue of the grant. Thereupon in Government Order No. 8529-39—Ft. 64-03, dated the 11th March, 1905, fifteen kinds of trees besides sandalwood were classed as reserved trees. The provisions of this order were intended to operate only in the case of future grants of land for coffee cultivation, but Notification No. 8540, dated the 11th March, 1905, did not correctly represent this intention of Government.

4. The question now submitted for the orders of Government is how far Rule 6, Appendix E to the Land Revenue Rules of 1890, which fixes an upset price of Rs.10 per acre and conveys the right to all trees excepting sandal applies to future grants of land for coffee cultivation, as it has not been repealed by Notification No. 8540, dated the 11th March, 1905; and whether it is necessary to modify it. The Deputy Commissioner of the Kadur District also states that in view of the increase in the kinds of trees reserved to Government in the case of future grants an upset price of Rs.10 is too high, and that therefore it may be made to consist of a fixed sum for survey charges and a variable price to be calculated according to the value of the trees on the land applied for.

5. After further consideration Government do not feel satisfied that it is necessary to reserve any other trees besides sandal or make the upset price vary according to the number and kinds of trees contained in the land applied for. The question whether Government right to timber should be conveyed to grantees of coffee lands or reserved to Government was fully considered in Government Order Camp No. 1860-71, dated the 10th March, 1887. The conclusion then arrived at was that both the reservation to Government of several kinds of trees and the valuation of upset price on each land applied for after an enumeration of the trees on the land were undesirable and that the best system was to prescribe a rate of upset price that would include both survey expenses and Government timber rights except in sandal. This principle has been adopted in the rules contained in Appendix E to the Land Revenue Rules of 1890 and is carried a little further as it abolishes the different rates of upset price prescribed for different localities in the rules of 1887. The only objection to the procedure prescribed therein is that a fixed upset price may lead to the grant of lands containing valuable timber which have not been applied for for *bona-fide* purposes of coffee cultivation. It is always open to the Forest Department to have lands containing any valuable growth of timber reserved and prevent the grant of such lands. Besides, as these lands are generally sold by auction, there is an additional safeguard against

the land being acquired for any extremely low price. Government are also of opinion that the suggestion to fix a certain amount for survey expenses and make a valuation of timber in each case would involve a considerable amount of labor, and cause delay in the disposal of applications. The upset price which has been based on the averages derived from the condition of good and bad lands has not been found excessive or in any way to tend to discourage applications for coffee cultivation. Further reduction is not therefore necessary.

6. For the reason stated above, Government are pleased to cancel Government Order No. 8529-39—Ft. 64-03-9, dated the 11th March, 1905, and Notifications No. 8540, dated the 11th March, 1905, and No. R. 63— Ft., 184-04, dated the 5th July, 1905, and to direct that questions arising in connection with grants of land for coffee cultivation be disposed of according to the provisions of Appendix E to the Land Revenue Rules of 1890.

7. The Revenue Commissioner will inform the Representative Assembly member who mooted Subject No. 80 of 1907 of the above order

Notification No. R. 5653—*Ft.* 183-05-3, *dated Bangalore*, 29*th February*, 1908.

The Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore are pleased to direct that Government Notification No. R. 8540—Ft., 64-03-9, dated the 11th March, 1905, amending clauses 5 and 6 of Notification No. 242, dated the 24th March 1885, prescribing rules for the grant of land for coffee cultivation be hereby cancelled; as also Notification No. R 63—Ft., 184-04-3, dated the 5th July, 1905, sanctioning rules for regulating payment of seigniorage for cutting reserved timber in coffee lands in so far as it is applicable to grants made thereafter.

Coffee in Jamaica.

Jamaican coffee was exported during 1906 to the amount of 80,772 cwts., valued at $653,421. The total quantity, in cwts. was divided as follows: To the United States, 17,476; to the United Kingdom, 11,411; to British possessions, 6,144; while other countries received 45,741. For the Blue Mountain Coffee, Jamaica holds a reputation of its own, and the claim is made that is excelled by no other berry. This particular Coffee is grown at an altitude of between 3,000 and 4,000 feet and for the most part on established plantations. The bulk of the Island's coffee production, however, is grown by the peasantry, only about 400 tons annually of so-called Blue Mountain berry being produced. It is claimed that the highest price obtainable in the world's market for Coffee is paid for this special brand of Jamaica's product—125*s.* to 132*s.* per cwt. The total area under coffee cultivation is given at 27,765 acres.

Tea in Jamaica.

One tea plantation exists on the Island, comprising about 80 or 90 acres. Without doubt tea-growing would be much more largely extended were it not for the expense attached to the cultivation of the plant while waiting for maturity, the time required being about five years. The plantation in question is situated in the northern portion of the Island, in the parish of St. Ann. The factory in which the tea is cured and prepared for the market is equipped with improved machinery, and an article of good flavour and quality is turned out.

Cocoa in Jamaica.

The production of cocoa is on the increase in Jamaica, owing to the establishment of cocoa plantations among the banana growers in connection with the banana industry. Still further development along this line is assured, as such mode of cultivation has proved satisfactory, small expense being attached to cocoa plantations thus established. An area of 6,021 acres is now under cocoa cultivation, while the exports for 1906 were 31,066 cwts., valued at $256,939. Exports of cocoa to the United States for 1907 were valued at $142,000.

A General Meeting of the Ceylon Association in London was to be held on the 2nd instant to consider the question of the Tea Cess.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

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The U. P. A. S, I.

(INCORPORATED).

The Scientific Officer Scheme.

Subject to the sanction of the Government of India, the Coorg Administration is prepared to subscribe Rs.1,000 a year for a period of five years towards the expenses of employing a scientific expert to assist the Planting Communities of Southern India.

International Rubber Exhibition.

In connection with the International Rubber and Allied Trades' Association, to be held at Olympia, London, from September 14th, to September 26th, 1908, Mr. A. Staines Manders, the Organising Manager, has sent to the Managing Editor of *The Planters' Chronicle*:—

1. Season tickets for issue to residents of India.
2. Single admission tickets for distribution where season tickets are not necessary.
3. Instructions regarding the sending of exhibits.
4. A supply of labels for people sending exhibits to attach to the packets.
5. Form of Application for space.

Mr. Manders writes: "The Exhibition is going along very big, and we shall fill the Olympia I do not think there is a Rubber producing country that will not be exhibiting, and manufacturers from all parts will be coming over in large numbers, also makers of machinery, &c, &c.

"The International Rubber Conference of producers and manufacturers, will be attended by delegates from all parts of the world."

He would be glad to receive photographs, tropical plants, etc., from any planter.

The tickets, etc., have arrived, and applications for them are invited. Every applicant is requested to kindly state whether he is to be an Exhibitor or not, so that his ticket may be indorsed if necessary. Exhibitors will be allowed to enter the Exhibition building before the Exhibition opens.

The Committee of the Motor Club (which has one of the largest Club Houses in London at the corner of Coventry and Whitcomb Streets, close to Piccadilly Circus), have kindly consented to make visitors to London taking part in this Exhibition during the month of September next, Hon. Members of the Club. All that is necessary is, to send name and address on arrival in London, to Mr. Manders [Exhibition Offices, Chancery Lane (Holborn), W. C.], so that he can notify the Secretary of the Motor Club, who will then issue the usual notice.

Popularization of Coffee.

A telegram, dated London, April 10th, to the *Ceylon Observer*, states:—

The Brazilian Government has signed a contract with Messrs. Travers and Sons and Mr. E. Johnston, London, to form a Company to push San Paulo coffee. The propaganda is to be spread over five years. £52,000 has been earmarked for the purpose of popularising coffee in England and the British Colonies.

A Consular report from Rio de Janeiro sates that on January 28th, the President of the State of Sao Paulo signed a decree putting into force an act of June, 1906, which provides for the establishment of a Board whose purpose shall be to create an increased demand for Brazilian coffee in foreign countries. The provisions of the decree are, briefly, as follows:—

"The Board is attached to the department of agriculture, commerce, and public works, and consists of four members, who are to be appointed by the President of the State. One of the members shall be chosen as President, and another as Secretary of the Board, these two officers having their seat permanently at the State capital, while the two remaining members are to have charge of the propaganda abroad. The duty of the Board shall be to study the conditions of consuming markets, to propose plans for the stimulation of consumption, and to direct and superintend such operations as may be undertaken for the extension of the coffee trade abroad.

"The Board is expected to conduct an educational campaign, pointing out to consumers the reasons why substitutes and imitations should be avoided, and organizing travelling exhibitions which shall visit the principal markets, for the purpose of familiarizing the public with Brazilian products and particularly with her agricultural conditions.

"Grants will be made to companies and individuals, who shall contract to undertake to extend the use of coffee by advertising, Exhibitions and Conferences under direction of the Board. They shall promote the installation of model roasting establishments in various large cities of the world, to be chosen in conjunction with the Board. Only coffee of Sao Paulo origin shall be used in the propaganda."

No information has yet been received to show how this Brazilian scheme affects the project that was under this consideration of the U. P. A. S I. Apparently, Brazil will not join in any general Coffee propaganda but will push her own produce alone; it remains to be seen if other coffee-growing countries and India can come to an understanding and formulate a scheme of their own.

Tea in the United States.

Apropos of Mr. J. McKenzie's letter in the April issue of this paper it is interesting to note that Mr. C. W. Post (whose name is suggestive of "Postum," one of the so-called substitutes for Coffee) writes to a New York paper to contest a statement that he was healed in the Battle Creek sanitarium by using their foods, &c. Mr. Post writes:—

"This is absolute untruth. I was under the care of Dr. Kellogg for about nine months, the result being a total and miserable failure. I was given up to die and taken out of the place in a dying condition. I was healed under other hands and by an entirely different method.

"I have never adopted any of the sanitarium foods or beverages;.....

"Only one item in your correspondent's article is worthy of particular notice, and that is that the business of health foods in Battle Creek has been very largely the result of the use of newspapers and magazines.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting, held at 1 p.m. on March 9th 1908, at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud.

Present:—Messrs. W. I. LECHLER, C. K. SHORT, C. RAHM, J. C. LARGE, W. RAHM, C. DICKINS, S. M. HIGHT, P. GOUBERT, C. G. LECHLER, Rev. Fathers ROCHET and DANIEL.

1. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. B. Cayley (*Chairman and Honorary Secretary*), who sent the papers to Mr. C. G. Lechler with a request to hold the Meeting, as notified, the latter was asked to take the Chair.

2. Notice calling the Meeting was taken as read.

3. READ and confirmed proceedings of Committee Meeting held on February 10th.

4. READ and passed accounts for the quarter ending February 29th, 1908, showing a balance in hand of Rs.222-15-3.

5. READ paper and opinions *re* compulsory Coffee Passes—

Resolved.—That the Collector and District Magistrate, Salem, be addressed asking that, if he considers it feasible, would he kindly request the Government of Madras to insert a clause in the Coffee-stealing Prevention Act 8 of 1878, that all Coffee Passes should be compulsory, of a uniform pattern and to be adopted optionally, by Coffee-planting Districts in the Presidency.

6. *Feeder Roads.*—After reading Mr. E. G. Windle's letter and considerable discussion, it was proposed by Mr. C. G. Lechler and seconded by Mr. C. Rahm, and carried, 9 voting for and 2 abstaining, "That having addressed the District Board, Salem, which is unable to do anything in the matter, Government be approached and asked to complete the Feeder roads."

7. READ letter from Mr. G. Turner and heard statement from Mr. C. Rahm *re* the suggested road from the head of the bandy ghaut to the Varniar road proposed to be constructed through the Grange and Phœnix estates—

Resolved.—That the President, District Board, Salem, be addressed asking that the connecting circle of about a mile in length from the head of the cart road near the Lake to the Varniar cart road, be undertaken by the Board, as the road would be within Union limits, would be much used by residents and visitors to Yercaud, that the cost would be inconsiderable, and that the land required would be given free by Messrs. Gompertz and Limouzin.

8. READ and recorded notice from the Executive Engineer, Salem, *re* tenders for the upkeep and maintenance of Feeder roads.

9. READ letter and postcard from Messrs. Nicholson and Cobbe, respectively—

Resolved.—That the members present agree to the best of their power, to rigidly insist upon Malayalis coming to work at 8 A. M., as hitherto has been the custom.

10. READ letter from the Honorary Secretary, Central Travancore Planters' Association—

The Shevaroy Planters' Association has already signified its willingness to subscribe to the U. P. A. S. I. on a uniform acreage basis.

11. READ and recorded proceedings of the Mysore Government on lands or Rubber cultivation in that province.

12. READ circulars Nos. $\frac{16 \& 17}{'08}$ from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I.

13. The following papers, etc., were placed on the table—
Agricultural Ledger, 1-4-1907.
Reference to Rubber-producing Plant, 1907.
Proceedings, Kanan Devan Planters' Association, December, 1907.
" Central Travancore " " January, 1908.
" Nilgiris " " February, 1908.

(Signed) C. G. LECHLER, *Chairman.*

Coorg Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting held at the Bamboo Club House, Pollibetta, on Wednesday, March 11th, 1908, at 2-30 p. m.

Present:—Messrs. MURRAY-AYNSLEY, W. A. F. BRACKEN, A. BOPPANNA, J. W. FINLAYSON, G. C. GARRETT, F. W. GERRARD, C. G. MACLEAN, F. MACRAE H. MARRIOTT (*visitor*) H. T. SHAW, R. D. TIPPING, and A. LAMBERT (*Honorary Secretary*). Mr MURRAY-AYNSLEY took the Chair.

The Honorary Secretary proceeded to read the minutes of the last Meeting.

Approved and passed; proposed by Mr. R. D. Tipping, seconded by Mr. C. G. Maclean

Proposed Acreage Subscription to the U. P. A. S. I.—After some discussion, the following proposition was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously:—Proposed by Mr. R. D. Tipping, seconded by Mr. Murray-Aynsley, that a sub-Committee be appointed to devise the best means of raising the extra funds required in order to meet the acreage assessment which it is proposed, for the future, to make the basis for subscriptions of District Associations to the U. P. A. S. I. The following Committee was appointed:—Messrs. Gerrard, R. D. Tipping and the Honorary Secretary.

Improved Road Communication between Mysore and Mercara.—The Honorary Secretary addressed some remarks to the Meeting on this question, and advised the Members present as to what was being done in regard thereto, but as the information was mostly of a confidential nature, it cannot, of course, be published here. The Members, however, approved of the action the Honorary Secretary was taking in connection with this matter.

Popularization of Coffee.—The Honorary Secretary read U. P. A. Circular No. 11/08, and other correspondence relating to this subject; the Meeting was, generally speaking, strongly of opinion that, if other Coffee-producing countries sufficiently support any feasible scheme for the Popularization of Coffee, the S. India Planters should also render what assistance they can towards maintaining the same. The suggested mode of raising funds for this purpose in India takes the form of a cess, similar to the Tea Cess, to be levied on all coffees exported from the country.

Scientific Officer Scheme.—The Honorary Secretary read U. P. A. Circular No.5/08, referring to this question, also a letter from the Commissioner of Coorg dated 28th February, 1908, in which our Government has agreed to subscribe Rs.1,000 a year for a period of five years towards the expenses of employing a scientific expert to assist the Planting Communities of Southern India. The Honorary Secretary further added that the support of some 9,500 acres of Coffee had been promised in Coorg towards the maintenance of the scheme giving an annual subscription of some Rs 300 rated at 6 pies per acre. It would, however, be now necessary for us to guarantee to support this scheme for 5 years, and this point must be settled at the next Meeting, or, in any case, before the date of the next U. P. A. Meeting. A cordial vote of thanks to our Government was passed for the kind promise of monetary assistance towards the support of this scheme.

Valuation of Timber under Waste Land Rules.—The Honorary Secretary read letter from Government thereon, dated 3rd January, 1908.—*Cordially approved.*

S Coorg Coffee-Stealing Prevention Fund.—Election of a new member of Committee therefor. Proposed by Mr. Gerrard, seconded by Mr. Bracken, that Mr. F. Macrae be appointed.—*Carried unanimously.*

V. P. P. Post and its proposed introduction between the United Kingdom and India.—The Honorary Secretary read letter from Government thereon, dated 20th January, 1908; after some discussion it was decided to advise Government that this was a matter in regard to which we did not feel justified in interfering or expressing an opinion thereon, as so many interests were involved.

Sidapur-Pollibetta Road.—The Honorary Secretary read correspondence in conection with the same.—*Approved.*

Encashment of Supply Bills at Local Treasuries.—The Honorary Secretary read letter from Government thereon, dated 17th February, 1908.—*Recorded with satisfaction.*

Triangulation Survey of Coorg.—The Honorary Secretary read letter from the Triangulation No 19 Party, Madras, dated 25th February, 1908, in which he stated that he had issued strict orders to his subordinates to be very careful and polite in their dealings with European Planters and others in connection with this question of poling trees. Further, he added, that after completing the triangulation up to the 15th June, 1908, the topographical detail survey is to take place on a 2-inch scale, not only in Government Forest Lands, but also in private Coffee Estates, Zimi, Patta land, etc., so that the Trigonometrical points will be necessary everywhere, even on Regimental Forts and Palaces.—*Recorded with satisfaction.*

The Honorary Secretary read portions of correspondence regarding the desirability of undertaking legislation in India on the lines of the English Life Assurance Companies Act, 1870, with a view to obtaining an expression of opinion thereon from the Members present It was decided that this was a subject which could hardly be included within the range of our discussions, as we were not sufficiently well acquainted therewith to offer a definite opinion on it.

But at the same time, it appeared to us very advisable that similar regulations to those which have been found necessary, and are in force, in Great Britain and other countries should be legislated for in the case of India.

The Honorary Secretary read letter from Mr. Boppanna regarding the urgent need of a bridge over the Karada river on the Virajpett-Nalknad road, and requesting the Association to approach Government on the matter at an early date. It was unanimously resolved to do so.

READ letter from Mr. Breithaupt expressing his regret at not being able to attend the Meeting, owing to indisposition.

The Honorary Secretary then informed the Members present that he did not propose to seek re-election as Honorary Secretary, C. P. A., and asked them —in case they were under the impression that his services would be available in the future—to arrange for some other Member to assume office.

A vote of thanks to the Chair and Honorary Secretary closed the proceedings.

(Signed) C. E. MURRAY-AYNSLEY,
Chairman.

POLLIBETTA,
11th March, 1908.

A. LAMBERT,
Honorary Secretary.

An estimate of the output of Coffee by the various Republics of Central America for the year 1907-8 fixes the production of Guatemala at 600,000 quintals, Nicaragua 137,000 quintals, Salvador 500,000 quintals, and Costa Rica at 160,000 bags.

For Nicaragua a decrease of 34,500 quintals is thus indicated, while the production of Guatemala remains practically unchanged.

The following table gives the exportation of Central America coffee during 1906 as noted by M. Desire Pector in his recent work on Central America:—

	Bags.
Guatemala	580,000
Salvador	550,000
Costa Rica	249,000
Nicaragua	150,000

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

The following are extracts from an Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeeting of the General Committee held on March 24th, 1908.

Corresponaence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters of 28th February and 6th March, from the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association, London. which had been circulated, were brought up for final consideration and disposal: the principal subjects dealt with in these letters were as follows:—

(*a*) *Franco-British Exhibition.*—It was mentioned in the proceedings of the meeting of 4th February last that the London Committee had asked that circulars should be issued by this Association inviting members to forward exhibits of tea for the Franco-British Exhibition, but that as it was understood that exhibits should be delivered in London before the 15th of April it had been decided to suggest that samples should be obtained in London, as the date mentioned would be too early to have samples of the new season's tea forwarded.

Since then Sir James Buckingham has written that if he could have a list of those who are to exhibit he would see that space wou'd be reserved for them until the samples could reach London in June. In view of this the Committee have issued a circular to members putting the matter before them and asking them to say whether they propose to exhibit and if so how many samples of 1 lb. each they will forward to London.

The London Committee also asked that the Trustees of the Indian Museum should be asked to lend a tea rolling model for exhibition, as it had not been possible to obtain any suitable model at home. The Trustees, however, informed the General Committee that they are unable to give the model as the removal from its base would involve considerable expense and might be injurious to it.

(*b*) *Russian Import Duty on Tea.*—With reference to the para. under this heading in the proceedings of 25th February, the London Committee have now been informed that the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg has addressed a note to the Russian Government expressing the hope that they will see their way to the early withdrawal of the surtax imposed on Indian and Ceylon teas. It is understood that Russia has not yet replied to this represenation.

(*c*) *Nitro-Bacterine.*—A copy of the third edition of a pamphlet on "Nitro-Bacterine," dealing with nitrification of the soil, has been received from London. Nitro-Bacterine is only beneficial for leguminous crops, and would therefore not be directly useful for tea, but it might be used in conjunction with some of the green manures with which tea is treated. The pamphlet is published at the Review of Reviews Office, London, and the price is threepence per copy.

Darjeeling Planters' Association.—With a letter of 12th March from the President and Honorary Secretary of the Darjeeling Planters' Association there was forwarded a copy of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 20th February last and attention was drawn to a resolution then passed, which was in the following terms:—

"That the Association should approach the Indian Tea Association with a view to affiliation."

The matter was dealt with at some length in the proceedings, and the President desired to know if the General Committee would favour the proposed affiliation and if so upon what terms it might be arranged.

The question of the proposed affiliation was discussed in general terms, but it was agreed that it was a matter which should be dealt with by the

Darjeeling and Dooars Sub-Committee; it was accordingly decided to remit the suggestion to them and to ask them to report to the General Committee on the terms and conditions that might be thought suitable.

Extracts from an Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 7th April, 1908.

China Tea—As a result of some conversations that Sir James Buckingham had recently with Sir Seymour King, the latter arranged to put a question in Parliament to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking him whether his attention had been called to the large amount of low class China Tea lately consigned to the United Kingdom, a large proportion of which was lying unsold in Bond, the quality being so low that the Trade refrained from purchasing it; and whether he would take steps in the interests of consumers to prevent the importation of teas of such an undesirable quality which, being quite undrinkable themselves, could only be used for adulterating pure Indian and Ceylon teas.

Anti-Tea-Duty League.—Two letters, of 13th and 20th March, respectively, from the Secretary of the Anti-Tea-Duty League, London, were before the Committee. These detailed the methods adopted by the League in their 1908 Budget Campaign: and with the second letter there was forwarded copy of a letter received from the Treasury in which it was mentioned that the Chancellor of the Exchequer regretted that his engagements would not permit him to receive a deputation from the League and in which he said that the particulars which it was desired to put before him might be communicated by means of a written statement more conveniently than by a personal interview: any such statement would have his most careful consideration.

The letters were to be acknowledged.

Assam Labour—A question recently came before the General Committee as to whether an employer may, after taking a coolie without contract from a recruiting district up to one of the labour districts, place him under a contract the terms of which will render the coolie liable to be prosecuted under Section 492 of the Indian Penal Code, in the event of his breaking the contract The opinion of the Association's Solicitors was taken on the point, and the Committee have been informed that inasmuch as Section 492 contemplates that the labourer has been conveyed to the place of his work by virtue of a contract in writing, any contract entered into subsequent to this would not be sufficient to allow of the coolie, in the event of a breach of such contract, being prosecuted as for an offence under Section 492. And further, the Solicitors gave it as their opinion that no employer could demand that he should be allowed to place a newly arrived coolie under a contract purporting in terms to constitute a breach of it on the part of the coolie a criminal offence; the coolie could not be compelled to enter into such a contract and, should he voluntarily do so, the contract would to that extent be without effect.

As it was considered that this opinion would be of considerable interest to Managers it was decided to forward copies of it to the Chairmen of the Assam Branch and Surma Valley Branches, with the suggestion that it should be circulated by them to their different Committees for information.

Nurses for the Surma Valley—For some time past the question of the provision of two nurses for service in the Surma Valley has been under consideration, and a circular was issued by the General Committee to all Agents and Proprietors interested in that Valley to ascertain how far a scheme for the levy of a charge of four or five pies per acre per annum to raise the funds required by the Indian Nursing Association would receive support. The Secretary now reported that altogether Agents representing over 100,000 acres had replied in favour of the suggestion, so that at five pies an acre a sum of over Rs.2,600 per annum would be provided. The sum originally mentioned was from Rs.2,500 to Rs.3,000, and it was accordingly decided to make a levy at a rate of 5 pies per acre actually under tea, which, taking into consideration the gardens from whom definite replies have not yet been received, should give a sufficient sum.

RUBBER.

Rubber Prospects.

THE VIEWS OF MR. HERBERT WRIGHT.

Mr. Herbert Wright, the author of "Hevea Brasiliensis or Pará Rubber," and the well-known expert on the rubber-growing industry, was seen by a *Ceylon Observer* representative on the 9th instant on the subject of many immediately important rubber questions. Asked as to the

OUTLOOK IN LONDON.

Mr. Wright replied: "I don't think there is anything to be startled at in the present condition of the rubber market in Europe at all. People seem to have got an idea that we are passing through a terrible period of depression As a matter of fact the price being paid for fine hard Pará to-day is much nearer the normal than it has been since the year 1905."

"Do you think, Mr. Wright, that Rubber will go up to any appreciable extent?"

"Well, the view held by some very prominent manufacturers at home is that during 1908 there is a possibility that the price will fluctuate from 2*s.* 6*d* a lb. to 4*s.* a lb Many parties are in a somewhat nervous state, and any active buying would result

In an Immediate Rise in the Price of the Raw Article.

"Yes, a low price may lead to the extension of the uses of rubber."

"What do you consider the best form in which to send plantation rubber to the London market?

"That question I would prefer not to answer."

"Can you offer any advice to Ceylon Planters?"

"My advice is this:—The more economically the Ceylon Planter can run his estate the better it will be for him and all parties concerned. It is just as well to look forward to a price of

2*s* 6*d* a lb. for Rubber in the Distant Future,

when the supplies from the present exceedingly large acreages are being sent home I think, as I have said before, that the planters have had a very fair innings, and it rests with them to adopt the strictest economy in the management to make the rubber industry the sound, financial success it should be"

"What do you consider are the chances of plantation rubber in competition with wild rubber?"

"Generally speaking," resumed Mr. Wright, "manufacturers have a decided preference for Pará rubber, and if they can have it at a reasonable price they will use it and give up the use of many other inferior wild rubbers. The competition of plantation with wild Pará will be another matter. It is not likey that the authorities in tropical America will let such an important source of revenue decline, even if they go to the extent of actually

Subsidising Exploitation Parties."

"With regard to the Rubber Exhibition, Mr. Wright?"

"All I can say is that the Rubber Exhibition to be held in London shows every prospect of being a great success. As most Ceylon people know now the people in charge of the Exhibition have had to select the Olympia for the exhibits. A very good show indeed can be relied upon, and it will be one which will stimulate interest in the plantation industry as well as in the manufacture and disposal of rubber articles."

Led on to the subject of the Malay section of the

RUBBER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION RULES.

Mr. Wright said he would rather not say too much.

"Naturally, you look upon the alterations of the former managerial ordinances as being somewhat drastic?"

"I cannot say that I do. I am not of the opinion, in fact, that the principle of the rules is at all drastic. In view of the present fluctuation of the price for the raw article, any sensible body of men must be fully alive to the necessity of conducting rubber estates on efficient and economical lines."

Asked finally as to the prospects of the market absorbing all the plantation rubber that will come into it during the next few years, and upon the

STABILITY OF THE RUBBER INDUSTRY AS AN INVESTMENT.

Mr. Wright replied; "I regard rubber cultivation as an investment as being among the best of the present time—even at 2*s.* 6*d.* a lb. As I said before, however, the Klondyke days are over. The industry ought to develop into a very steady one and one which will attract fixed investments rather than those men who are imbued with the merely gambling spirit."

Mr. Wright is intending making an extensive tour in Ceylon.

Rubber Plants From Cuttings:

INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS BY A BURMA PLANTER.

Tavoy, Burmah, March 2end.

DEAR SIR,—The following may prove interesting:—(i) After my planting in June I went over the remaining 10,000 or so plants (Pará rubber) in the nurseries and pruned all the "double headers" there were, leaving one stem to each root stock. Most of these were cut off just below the ground level. A number of plants, too, with twisted roots were cut down below the twist, hoping they would send up a shoot from the root left, which, I may say, they have done. I obtained 509 cuttings, about 250 of which had small fibrous roots, but none had very much root development. These were all put down in a nursery near the bungalow and carefully looked after. This occurred in August last. Now in March I find I have 393 established plants all looking well. (ii) Also in August last a family of porcupines raided me, and in 3 nights bit off, and otherwise destroyed, 715 2-year old plants put out in the previous June. Supplying was done at once and one or two of my men brought to the bungalow a lot of the bitten off stems. These were left lying in a heap for 7 or 8 days when I bethought me, in a spare moment, of sticking them with the nursery, too, to see if they would succeed as cuttings. These, too were well looked after and watered as required. Altogether 85 stems were put in having first had their gnawed and bitten ends cut off clean with a sharp knife. Now in March I find I have 56 of these alive and well and looking as if they had thoroughly rooted themselves. The shoots they have thrown up (pruned off to one each) are vigorous and in full growth.

How often one's best efforts result in failure and things more or less carelessly done and under adverse circumstances prove successful?

I am sorry that in the first experiment I did not count *exactly* how many of the cuttings had small fibrous roots and how many had none, but to the best of my recollection certainly not more than 50 per cent. were, more or less, generally less, rooted.

J. G. F. MARSHALL.

Rubber Cultivation in Burma.

The *Ceylon Observer* is indebted to a well-informed correspondent for the following information:—

My experience in rubber being confined to Mergui, I find it difficult to give you an idea of the acreage planted with rubber throughout Burma; but, to my knowledge, there are about 4,500 acres in the Mergui, Tavoy and Shweggin Districts and in Rangoon, not including small holdings owned by Chinamen and Burmans—there are also plantations in Toungoo, Bassein, Amherst and Bhamo which I have heard of, but do not know the acreage. I

think rubber is being tried tentatively throughout the Province, whenever it is thought it will succeed. The Mercantile firms in Rangoon appear to be interested in rubber and so do the public here generally.

From the above, we infer there cannot be more than 10,000 acres planted with rubber altogether in Burma.

Rubber in Malaya, Java, Sumatra and Ceylon.

A prominent figure in the London Rubber World is Mr. F. de Bois MacLaren, of the well-known Shoe Lane firm of Publishers, Messrs. Wm. MacLaren and Sons, who among other publications own the "India Rubber Journal." Mr. Bois MacLaren, who is Chairman of the Rubber Estates Agency, Ltd., and a Director of the Kepitigalla Rubber Estates, Ltd., and the Shelford Rubber Estates, Ltd., has been on a visit to the Malay States, Java and Sumatra, in all of which countries his firm has extensive interests and he is now spending some time in Ceylon on his homeward journey. Mr. MacLaren has for many years been in close touch with the India rubber market and in conversation with a *Ceylon Observer* representative on the 1st April he expressed the belief that the market was improving and the outlook becoming brighter. "Several manufacturers told me," said Mr. MacLaren, "that they were using mixtures with their rubber when the price was high, but now that the price has fallen they can use pure rubber and give a better quality article, and I believe that is what they will do."

"What do you consider the best form in which to send plantation rubber to the London market?"

"The biscuit is in most favour at the present time, rather than crepe or block. Manufacturers have, however, been very unsettled indeed in their preference. Sometimes crepe was the favourite form, at other times the biscuit and at one time block found the readiest sale. Biscuit, the present favourite is easily made and there is no form of rubber almost in which you can detect impurities so readily as in sheet and biscuit which you can hold up to the light."

"What do you think of Eastern plantation rubber's chances in competition with Brazil?"

"I think you in the East will be able to compete very advantageously. Brazil has been feeling this fall in price very much and the money put up for equipping expeditions for the collection of rubber, as they have to do in Brazil is not forthcoming this year. It has collapsed to a large extent, so that will mean that there will be a smaller quantity of rubber coming in from Brazil next year. If that is the case and the American demand comes back to anything like its former extent one can naturally expect a considerable rise in the price of plantation rubber, provided, of course, that nothing unforeseen occurs.

"What do you consider the 'killing out price' for Brazil?"

"Well, there has been a good deal of discussion upon that point. At one time Brazil was able to send rubber into the market, and I suppose make a profit at a considerably lower price than at present; but, now, I would say labour is dearer than at that time and the expenses of firms are much higher than those of native firms which did business in a modest way, and altogether I should not think they would be able to put rubber into the market, unless the export duty is taken off, at less than 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. Exchange currency has been a very speculative thing out there for many years and when men were not making profit out of rubber they made it by speculating on currency exchange; but that of course is not sound business."

"How do you think the growth of our rubber in Ceylon compares with what you saw in Java, Sumatra and the Malay States?"

"Very well upon the whole; but the growth in Ceylon is undoubtedly slower. This is more observable in trees that are of mature age. A tree for instance that is 12 years in Ceylon would not average better than a tree of 9 years in the Malay States, Java or Sumatra in a good situation. I would say the growth in these three countries are fairly equal: one place has not much

advantage over the other. In the Klang district in the Malay States where a number of the Companies that have been doing so well are situated the tree cannot get a deep root because they get to bad soil at a depth of 5 feet and in that district you often see a large proportion of trees blown down.

I think Sumatra and Java have equally good soil to the Malay States and are minus this disadvantage."

LABOUR.

"Did you find labour plentiful in all the countries you visited?"

"Well, the Dutch are always talking about requiring labour for themselves and they hint that some day they will prohibit the export of Javanese labour to the Malay States; but then there is now a very fair supply of Tamil labour available so I do not think there is likely to be any serious difficulty on account of labour. There may be temporary difficulties but nothing of lengthy duration.

"I was very much impressed with Java. It has the soil and the climate and everything one could desire—that is in West Java and Middle Java—(the East and North of the island are drier); and there is certainly no cheaper labour to be found anywhere in the world. There are 32 million people in that island, which is one of the most densely populated parts of the world. Cheap labour will be available there.

"Yes: I think moderately capitalised and well managed properties in Ceylon will always be able to compare favourably with the rest. They may not perhaps give per acre such high returns, but the returns will be satisfactory."

OVER-TAPPING IN MALAYA.

"There is," said Mr. MacLaren, "a great deal of over-tapping going on in the Malay States. Trees of 18 inches and so on are being tapped in a way they should not be; and that will have to be paid for later on. The trees must get a rest. I do not think it at all advisable to tap trees under 20 inches and then not above 2 feet from the ground where the bark is fairly thick. When you get up to 3 feet or over from the ground, the bark of a tree of that circumference is certainly too thin. I know of estates the bulk of the trees on which will certainly need to get a rest. People have been pressing for big returns this year to make a fair show but they will have to suffer for it later on."

THE PASSING OF HIGH PURCHASE PRICES.

"There is one thing sure in connection with rubber," said Mr. MacLaren "and that is that the day of high purchase prices and big promotion profits is gone for ever. My experience of Ceylon planters trying to sell estates, and I have met a good few of them, is that they want a higher value for them, than is given in any part of the world and they do not seem to realise that an estate is worth less per acre when rubber is at 2*s.* 9*d.* per lb. than when it is at 5*s.* 6*d.* They do not seem to have awakened to the change that has occured."

Rubber Cultivation in Java.

Mr. NOEL BINGLEY, a well-known English planter of many years' standing in Java, reports:—

"The increase in rubber undertakings in Netherlands India during the years 1906-7 has been noteworthy, and, in the case of Java is largely accounted for by the cheap cost at which, compared with neighbouring rubber-growing countries, rubber can be brought into bearing. This feature in the industry is to be largely attributed to the plentiful and cheap resident labour which Java possesses. At the first Rubber Congress held in Java at Djember in October, 1907, were represented 13,200 bouws (=23,100 acres) under private cultivation, and 10,000 bouws (=17,500 acres) under Government, or a total of over 40,000 acres, of which most of the Government and probably about one-quarter of the private cultivation were 'Ficus Elastica,' whilst excepting for a small acreage under Ceara, the rest was planted with 'Hevea Brasiliensis. No statistics are available of the acreage not represented at above Congress; but from information taken, this can be safely put at 33,000 bouws, or about 58,000 acres. It should be noted that the above figures include the acreages

which at the time of the Congress were already opened for rubber, but the planting of which had still to take place during the planting season (October 1907-March 1908) as well as what was actually planted at that time (October 1907)

"Trustworthy statistics for Sumatra and Borneo are at present not available. The acreage given at the end of 1907 in the *India Rubber World* as alienated for rubber in Sumatra was 85,000 bouws, but there is no mention of the acreage planted, though mention is made in place of a planted acreage on Borneo of 7,000 bouws. Assuming that, 25,000 bouws in Sumatra are under exploitation for rubber which there is reason to believe is a safe taxation, and including the abovementioned figures for Java and borneo, total estimated acreage for these countries amounts to about 65,000 bouws, or say 115,000 acres—of which most of the older Rubber, and nearly all that in bearing, say one-half of the whole acreage must be "Ficus Elastica,' as with a very few exceptions the cutivation of the Pará variety (Hevea Brasiliensis) dates from 1905 onwards. From the above it will be gathered that exports of rubber from these countries are still inconsiderable, as most of the Hevea and a large portion of the Ficus are not yet in production, though in the space of a few years the Dutch Indies should prove an important factor on the rubber markets of Europe.

"There is no longer any doubt as to the extreme suitability of the climate and soil in most parts of Java, and at any rate on the east coast of Sumatra for this cultivation, which fact, coupled with the undoubted labour advantages which Java possesses above most other tropical countries, has resulted in a steadily increasing trend of European capital towards rubber enterprises in Netherlands India, Of this capital far the larger part has been hitherto British and Belgian, whilst a certain amount has come from Germany and Holland, though in the latter case the interest is a maximum one when the advantages in rubber growing that her Colonies possess over most tropical countries are considered. According to statistics lately compiled by a Dutch firm in the Hague, it was shown that the capital of British Companies, interested in rubber in the Dutch Indies but domiciled in England, amounted to nearly lb. 1,500,000. This, however, does not include the numerous Companies formed during the last few years, also with British capital, but domiciled in Java, which can be put at another lbs. 350,000.

The Periyar Rubber Co. Ld.,

The Annual Meeting of the Periyar Rubber Co., Ld., was held at the offices of Messrs. Cumberbatch & Co., Slave Island, on April 14th. There were present:—Messrs. D. K. MICHIE (in the Chair), F. L. CLEMENTS, G. L. GRAIB, R. S. TEMPLER, G. NICOL THOMSON, and by Attorney A. J. DENISON, and G. S. BROWN.

THE CHAIRMAN—in proposing the adoption of the Report and Accounts—said:—Gentlemen, in submitting for adoption the report and accounts which follow, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read, as they put the Company's position clearly before you. In moving their adoption I shall refer briefly to one or two matters of interest that have not been introduced in the Report The first of these is the transference of the property of the Company. At the last General Meeting the hope was expressed by the Chairman that the transference would be completed without much delay. Business of this kind moves very slowly indeed. I am now in a position to tell you that the original block of about 500 acres has been transferred to the Company and the transfer has been registered, while the transfer of the second block of 300 odd acres is now in the hands of Mr. Abraham, the Company's lawyer in Trivandrum, together with the necessary powers of attorney, and we daily expect to hear of the completion of the transfer. If you have compared the total acreage in the Report now before you with the acreage for 1906, you will have noticed a difference of about 10 acres. The acreage in the Report of 1906, which was adopted at the last General Meeting, was an approximate one Since that time the property has been surveyed, and ascertained to consist of 840·77 acres, as given in the present Report. The Directors received in response to their recent proposal to issue 400 new shares at a premium of Rs.75 per share, 268 applications from share-

holders only But the Directors are now arranging for the issue of the balance of 132 shares, at the premium stated Labour during the past year, has given no serious anxiety In fact it must be said that there have been no labour difficulties The resident forces consist of about 150 Tamils, but the bulk of the work is carried on by local labour, which I believe, is giving every satisfaction Mr Forbes, the Superintendent of Periyar, who has done very good work for the Company, has recently resigned his charge, and your Directors are now considering the appointment of a new Superintendent This matter will shortly be settled We continue to receive excellent reports of the growth of the rubber The trees, we may regard ready for tapping this year, number over 15,000, and the estimate for the year is put by Mr Forbes at 15,000 lbs dry rubber With regard to prospects, I believe it is generally considered that the recent fall in the price of raw rubber to what may be considered the normal level, will have the effect of firmly establishing the plantation rubber industry on a basis that will yield satisfactory reports to investors At the present range of prices the Periyar Company should be capable of giving excellent results to its shareholders when its fine fields of rubber have all reached the tapping stage, and shareholders may, I think, congratulate themselves on having a thoroughly sound investment There is a telegram just arrived I see —

"Deed ready, public holidays intervening, registration can be completed Monday only"

Resuming, the CHAIRMAN said —So that settles the transfer of the property to the Company I now move the adoption of the report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1907

DIRECTORS —Messrs G N Thomson, F L Clements, G A Craib and D K Michie

The acreage of the property is as follows —

	230	acres rubber planted in	1902
	200	" "	1904
	78	" "	1905
	332 77	" "	1906
Total	840 77	acres	

The acreages of the fields are approximate, but the total acreage is in accordance with the titles The vendors title to the last block of land acquired is complete, and it is hoped that at the Meeting the Directors will be in a position to announce that the transfer of this block by the vendors to the Company is completed and registered and that the Company's title is in order Mr L Davidson visited the property in January and writes —"The oldest rubber on which the weeding difficulty has been overcome is as fine as one could wish to see, and this may be said of one clearing planted in 1906 and that, Periyar, if the weeds are kept in hand and crop extracted will make one of the best estates in the East there can be no doubt" He recommends as works of most importance—"(1) Establishing labour force (2) weeding, (3) crop work, (4) making a road A great help to No 1 will be No 4 recommendation" "Coolies on estate about 500 or 600, of whom 150 are Tamils" The expenditure during 1907 on cultivation and development (including a loss on Coast advances) was Rs 41,527 83, and on building Rs 5,274 72 for lines, hospital, Apothecaries houses, &c, The total crop secured was 598 13 16 lbs rubber Mr A Fairlie having resigned his seat on the Board, Mr D. K Michie was elected in his steid In terms of the Articles of Association Mr G N Thomson retires from the Board, but is eligible for re-election The appointment of an Auditor rests with the shareholders

Mr R S Templer seconded—*Carried*

In reply to a question it was stated that in accordance with the census in 1907 there ought to be 22 107 trees in bearing by November this year Next year, a further 14,185 trees should come into bearing One or two, of course, might die, and there might also be additions Thus by the end of the next year there would be about 36 thousand trees tappable.

The Report was carried.

THE DIRECTORATE.

Mr. G. N. Thomson was the retiring Director, but was re-elected on the proposition of Mr. Templer, seconded by Mr. G. S. Brown's attorney.

AUDITOR.

Mr. Denison's attorney proposed and Mr. Templer seconded, the re-election of Mr. MacDermott as Auditor on a fee of Rs. 100.

Rubber Growers' Association.

The following circular has been issued to Members of the above:—

1, OXFORD COURT, CANNON STREET,
London, E.C., 23rd March, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—It has been considered advisable to constitute various sections of this Association to deal with matters concerning particular centres of rubber production, with an Executive Committee for each section. General matters which arise affecting the common interests of rubber growers are, of course, dealt with by the Association as a whole, or by the General Executive Committee, but matters affecting distinct centres of production are better dealt with by the Members who are interested in the production of rubber within the particular area defined.

Will you, therefore, as a Member of the Association, kindly fill in the enclosed form stating in which section or sections you are interested, in order that circulars and information, dealing with matters concerning rubber production in the particular district or districts in which you are interested, may be sent to you.—

Yours Faithfully,
C. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

ENCLOSURE.

March, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—Please enter my name on the list of Members of those sections marked below, thus:—X.

MALAYAN SECTION.

Sir Frank Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Thos. North Christie, L. T. Boustead, Sir W. Hood Treacher, K.C.M.G., Norman Grieve, J. Loudoun Shand, E. S. Grigson, Hon'ble Everard Feilding, Arthur Lampard, R. Hoffmann, W. Forbes Laurie, W. P. Metcalfe, W. Nevitt, G. B. Leechman, R. F. McNain Scott and Keith F. Arbuthnot.

SOUTHERN INDIA SECTION.

A. Bethune, W. Forbes Laurie and A. Bryans.

SUMATRA SECTION.

J. C. Tate, Sir Walter Thorburn, H. Wilford Brett, J. H. H. Drough, Keith F. Arbuthnot and Arthur Lampard.

BORNEO SECTION.

Sir W. Hood Treacher, E. W. Roberts, Daniel de Brandt, F. H. Smith, J. Loudoun Shand and Thos. Johnston.

JAVA SECTION.

F. A. Roberts, G. A. Talbot, Wm. Taylor, Theodore C. Owen and Herbert Wright.

CEYLON SECTION.

R. A Cameron, T. J. Lawrence, R. B. Magor, E. S. Grigson, G. A. Talbot, Theodore C. Owen, A. Bethune, W. Forbes Laurie, R. Hoffman, L. T. Boustead, H. Walford Brett, Wm. Taylor, P. Oswald, G. B. Leechman, Keith F. Arbuthnot and J. B. Keith.

Name .....

Address .....

Dated ..... day of 1908.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

VOL. III.] JUNE, 1908. [No. 5.

The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

The British Tea Duty.

Mr. Stuart R. Cope, Secretary to the Anti-Tea-Duty League, has kindly forwarded a copy of the Memorial addressed by that body to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the subject of the Tea Duty. Mr. Cope remarks that in the event of there not being provision in the Budget (as it happens, there is not) for the reduction of the Duty, he is trusting to raise an important debate upon the subject.

The Memorial reads as follows :—

"We have the honour to place before you the following information relative to the position of the Tea Industry and the burden of taxation imposed upon it.

"The annual consumption of Tea in this country has very largely increased during the last forty years, having been

In 1865, the first year of the 6*d.* duty	...	97,834,600 lbs.
and in 1907	...	273,990,093 lbs.

"From 1890 to 1900 (with a 4*d.* duty) the average increased annual consumption of British-grown Tea was nearly 10 million lbs.

"Since 1900, however, by reason of the increased taxation, the annual increase was not continuous, as will be seen by the table and diagram annexed, and in particular the consumption of Indian and Ceylon Tea has fallen off in the last year by no less than 1,600,000 lbs.

"There can be no doubt whatever that the decrease in the normal expansion of the Trade is attributable to the heavy taxation imposed upon the Industry which greatly checked consumption and brought down the average price of Indian Tea from 8·78*d.* in 1899 to 7·30 in 1905. The effect on the Industry during the period (1900 to 1905) was very serious, the average fall of 1½*d* per lb. left but a small margin of profit to any producer, and to many the prices obtained fell below the cost of production.

"The further effect has been that while consumption recovered in the years 1905-06 and an improvement manifested itself in the prices of certain classes of Teas, a retrograde movement has again set in and the consumption of Indian and Ceylon Tea has fallen from 251,188,408 lbs. in 1906 to 249,568,693 lbs. in 1907.

"The improvement in the average price that was apparent in 1907 now has also disappeared.

"The average price for India and Ceylon Tea for the year 1907 was ... ... 8·18*d.*
For March, 1907 ... ... 8·85*d.*
" " 1908 ... ... 7·84*d.*
and for the year 1899 (before the increase of Duty) 8·44*d.*

"Notwithstanding, however, this fall, common and commonest qualities of Tea taken by themselves are still greatly appreciated in price, and this has led to a large importation of the lowest kinds of China Teas, such as can find no market here in normal years and certainly would be undrinkable if sold alone to the consumer. During 10 months of the current season 1st June 1907, to 31st March, 1908, the consumption of China Tea has been 8,800,000 lbs. as compared with 4,800,000 lbs. in the corresponding period 1906-07

"Here, again, is the great probability of a further reaction occurring in British-grown Tea owing to the increasing sale of these low priced description of Foreign Teas. Experience has shown that consumption permanently suffers when sound drinkable tea is not obtainable by the public at 1*s.* 2*d.* per lb. retail and under as is the case at the present time.

"Another point to which we desire to draw your attention is that the high duty has been the cause of creating somewhat of a monopoly in the distributing trade. The large capital required in order to finance heavy duty payments, amounting to some 65 to 70 per cent. on the average value of the Tea, and which have to be made in cash to the Customs, often weeks and sometimes months before they can be recovered from the consumer, has resulted in the trade being restricted to the hands of the more wealthy members of the trade, and evidence of this may be seen in the opposition which such monopolists have offered to any reduction of the duty.

"It is of the greatest importance to both the public and the producers that there should be an absolutely free and unfettered market in Tea and this cannot be while a heavy duty favours the existence of a monopoly.

"Further we desire to direct your attention to the desirability of fostering the consumption of a temperance drink such as Tea. There can surely be no safer method of combating intemperance than by providing an alternative drink, free from the evils which accompany alcohol. Tea is pre-eminently such a drink, and we beg to submit that it is of the highest importance to this country that its consumption should be encouraged.

"The incidence of the Tea Tax since 1900 has clearly proved and demonstrated, as has been acknowledged by yourselves and others of your predecessors in office, that not only does the consumer suffer from the Tax, but that the producers also must suffer. The upholding of a 5*d.* duty is undoubtedly hurtful to the masses and threatens to undermine a most deserving and important British Industry, not only by restricting consumption, but also by the encouragement it gives to the importation of low class China Teas.

"We therefore beg to express our hope that you may see your way in your forthcoming Budget to make a substantial reduction in the Tea Duty."

Annual Consumption of Indian and Ceylon Teas in the United Kingdom for the following Calendar Years.

In pounds—00,000's omitted.

1880	...	43,8	1890	...	136,5	1899	.	219,1
1881	...	48,3	1891	. .	150,2	1900	...	230,4
1882	...	50,5	1892	...	172,6	1901	...	238,7
1883	...	59,0	1893	...	172,3	1902	...	234,2
1884	...	64,2	1894	...	188,6	1903	...	229,3
1885	...	68,9	1895	...	190,3	1904	. .	234,6
1886	. .	74,6	1896	...	203,3	1905	...	239,9
1887	...	93,0	1897	...	210,0	1906	...	251,1
1888	...	104,7	1898	...	215,9	1907	...	249,5
1889	...	124,5						

Popularization of Coffee.

As stated in the May issue of *The Planters' Chronicle*, as part of the policy of the Sao Paulo Government to encourage the consumption of Coffee, a contract has been signed between the Government of the State of Sao Paulo and the firms of E. Johnson & Co., of Santos, and Joseph Travers & Sons, of London, for a propaganda in behalf of Sao Paulo Coffee in England. The contract was signed by Dr. Jorge Tybirica, President of the State of Sao Paulo, and Dr. Carlos Botelho, Secretary of Agriculture, on behalf of the State Government, and by Mr. Edward Greene, on behalf of the firms. It is said to be inferred in Brazil that similar contracts will be made with other countrie sin Europe, if practicable.

Further details as to the present contract show that the firms of Edward Johnson & Co., Ltd., of Santos, and Joseph Travers & Sons, Ltd., of London, undertake to form a company in England for the purpose of increasing the consumption of Sao Paulo Coffee in conformity with this contract.

The capital of the Company shall be £52,500. The capital of the Company shall be divided into fifty thousand preference shares of £1 each, which shall have preferential rights over both dividend and capital, and which shall bear interest at a rate exceeding 7 per cent. per annum, and a further fifty thousand ordinary shares of 1 shilling each.

The proposers agree and undertake to place all the preference shares without any bonus to Government, the corresponding capital to be realized under the following conditions: £25,000 on the formation of the Company, of which at least £5,000 shall be offered to coffee planters in the State. The residue required to complete the £50,000 shall be realized later in four equal portions, with one year's interval between each, so that, at the end of the fourth year from the date of the formation of the Company the whole of the preference shares shall be paid up. The distribution of the ordinary shares shall be made as follows: 5,000 shares to the subscribers to preference shares in the State as above mentioned; 22,500 shares to Edward Johnson & Co., Ltd.; 22,500 shares to Joseph Travers & Son, Ltd., or to persons indicated by them.

If the planters in the State do not subscribe for the whole portion of 5,000 preference shares, the ordinary shares corresponding to the preference shares not thus taken up shall belong to Government.

The Company shall be called "The State of Sao Paulo-Brazil Pure Roasted Coffee Company, Limited," or any other name which Government shall approve, and shall have its offices in the city of London.

After two years, with Government permission, the Company may, if it deems it advisable, extend its operation to all the British colonies and dependencies, as well as to Egypt, provided that Government has not already made any contracts with other persons for the propaganda of Coffee in the said countries.

The Company shall offer to the public two qualities of Sao Paulo Coffee, suited for the trade of the United Kingdom. To protect this Coffee Government shall empower the Company to register the first of these qualities with a United Kingdom trade-mark, consisting of any name, mark or design descriptive of the Coffee and under which it shall be sold. This trade-mark shall be the exclusive property of Government whilst the contract is in force, but it shall concede the same to the Company which shall have the exclusive use of it. On the termination of the contract the said mark, registered in the United Kingdom, shall become the property of the Company and Government shall transfer it absolutely to the Company but, after such transfer, Government shall no longer be responsible for the purity and other qualities of the mark.

Of the two qualities offered for sale in the market, the better shall be well roasted Coffee, American types 3, 4 and 5, more or less, whilst the other

quality shall be approximately American types 7 and 8, and shall be retailed at the lowest possible price in order to attract the working classes. The sale prices shall be fixed by the Company.

The Coffee shall be sold in the bean unroasted, roasted or ground, and the covers in which it is sold shall bear the Government official stamp, so long as the contract is in force.

The Company undertakes to offer to the public only Coffee produced in the State of Sao Paulo, and for preference will offer for sale those Coffees which have been consigned to it by planters in the State.

If such Coffee is not consigned in sufficient quantities, more shall be bought for the Company's account in Santos, through Messrs. Edward Johnson & Co., Ltd., under the usual conditions.

The Company shall do all in its power to get the tolerance for the adulteration of Coffee in the United Kingdom abolished altogether, or at least reduced, by means of laws or measures tending to guarantee the greater purity of the article offered for sale in the United Kingdom. The Government of the State shall in this sense solicit the aid of the Union in approaching the British Government.

The Company may acquire the right of using any process which, in the opinion of the Board, will simplify the preparation of Coffee, but shall apprise the Government fiscal of such acquisition.

Government shall, whilst the contract is in force, grant the Company the right of styling itself "Official Agent of the State of Sao Paulo," for the propaganda of its Coffee in the United Kingdom, Government at the same time undertaking that, whilst the contract is in force, no other Company or individual shall possess these powers in the United Kingdom.

The Company shall make propaganda by means of advertising, exhibitions, etc., and by any other means which may, in the opinion of the Board and of the fiscal, attract the custom of the British public for Sao Paulo Coffee. Advertisements shall be of a general character, but shall all refer to the Coffee of the State of Sao Paulo in such a way as to benefit all vendors of the same. The subsidy shall also be employed for combating the adulteration of Coffee by such means as the Directors of the Propaganda Service shall consider most efficacious.

The duration of the present contract shall be five (5) years, dating from the foundation of the Company; and during this time Government shall pay the following subsidies in gold: 1st year, £12,500; 2nd year, £12,500; 3rd year, £10,000; 4th year, £10,000; 5th year, £5,000; total £50,000.

Any disagreement between Government and the Company shall be referred in London to the decision of two arbiters, one of whom shall be nominated by the Brazilian Minister in London and the other by the President of the London Stock Exchange. If no agreement is then arrived at, the two arbiters shall choose or cast lots for a third, whose decision shall be final. The present contract shall be without effect if the Company is not founded by the 1st of October next.

The following remarks of the *Brazilian Review* may interest readers in India:—

"We have always thought England, especially London, the best possible field for propaganda. In London 6,000,000 people are gathered together as it were in a ring fence. They are easy to get at, eager for novelty, attracted by advertising and ignorant even how to make Coffee. Teach them how delightful and cheap a beverage pure Coffee really is, and how to buy and make it, and consumers, we are convinced, will not be wanting. Induce London to drink more Coffee and less Tea, and there will be no more heard of "overproduction." The thing is to get them to try it. There ingenuity of the advertiser and the merchant comes in. If we might make a suggestion, the

thousands of Cocoa and Tea houses all over the Metropolis should offer a splendid basis for practical propaganda with Coffee grinding, if not roasting, done on the premises and the Coffee served sweet and savoury in cups to the customer or in little bags for them to take away. We remember as boys the early propaganda of Horniman's Indian Teas At that time any Tea but China was rejected with scorn; no good Tea, it was thought, could come out of India. So Horniman and other started their propaganda. In every druggist's and grocer's shop window ittle terracotta figures of Hindus picking or working the tea-leaves attracted attention. Cups of Tea and little sample packets were on every country grocer's counter. Result: to-day 183 million pounds of the Tea drunk in Great Britain comes from India, and only 13 millions from China. Let us hope before Messrs. Johnson's contract has expired, all England will have been taught to drink as good and as much Coffee as we do here."

The Anti-Tea-Duty League has sounded the tocsin of alarm over this matter, lest the Coffee campaign should be so conducted as to cause a reduction in the demand for Tea.

As regards the possible influence of the above contract in regard to Brazilian Coffee alone on the scheme for the popularization of Coffee generally, it is encouraging to learn that at a Meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce Committee held on 27th April, it was explained that the reported action of the Sao Paulo Government need not interfere with the proposed general propaganda for the increasing consumption of Coffee, as it was understood the Sao. Paulo Government would be prepared to subscribe a substantial amount to any funds raised to carry out the object in view. The Committee thought before coming to any definite conclusion it was advisable to call a meeting of the Coffee section in order to thoroughly discuss the matter and learn the feelings of the trade generally. This Meeting was held at the London Chamber of Commerce on Monday, the 8th May.

At this meeting, the Chairman made a general report as to the action taken by the Coffee Committee since its appointment in April 1907. Three Meetings had been held and Conferences had taken place between members of the Committee and the following:—

13th January.—Dr. F. Ferreira Ramos, representing the Government of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Mr. A. Wagner.

18th March.—Dr. Laureane Garcia Ortiz, President of the Bank of Exporters, Columbia, and Mr Climace Vargas as representing the Republic of Columbia.

The Acting Secretary read a short report of the proceedings at these Conferences. Attention was called to a report that according to the *Brazilian Review* of the 24th March a contract has been signed between the Government of the State of Sao Paulo and the firms of Messrs E Johnson & Co., and Jos Travers & Sons, Ltd., of London, for the propaganda of Sao Paulo Coffee in England and the meeting was asked to consider whether the separate action by Sao Paulo would affect the proposed propaganda of Coffee.

Mr. Brown expressed the opinion that the separate action of Sao Paulo need not interfere with the general propaganda. He understood that the Government of that State was willing to subscribe an annual donation towards the expenses of the Committee and he pointed out that the contract made with Messrs. Travers & Sons, Ltd., and Johnson & Co., contained clauses which would safeguard existing trade interests and prevent any interference with them so far as England was concerned.

A general discussion took place in which Messrs. Le Lacheur, Naumann and Rucker joined, these gentlemen expressing the opinion that renewed energy should be thrown into the general propaganda and that the action of the Sao Paulo Government need not interfere with the objects that the Coffee Committee had in view.

It was agreed:—

"That having heard the report of the action of the Committee since its appointment in 1908, the Coffee and Cocoa Trade Section authorises and requests the Coffee Committee to continue its efforts to formulate a scheme for the propaganda of Coffee, and suggests that the representatives of the various Coffee-producing countries be invited to a Conference by the Committee with the object of discussing and if possible agreeing upon the general basis of a scheme for submission to the Governments and interests of the various countries concerned."

Additions to Committee. It was agreed:—

"That Mr. J, Rucker, Mr. W. J. Thompson, and Mr. W. W. Asser be added to the Committee."

It was agreed that a meeting of the Committee shou'd be held on Monday the 11th May, and that the representatives of the various Coffee-producing countries should be invited to attend a Conference at a later date, the 25th May being suggested for that purpose.

Appointments of Agents by Brazil.—The meeting considered letters from the Association of Coffee Merchants, Antwerp, referring to the appointment of direct Agents in Belgium of the Brazilian State of Minas Geraes, and it was agreed:—

"That a letter be written to the Association of Coffee Merchants, Antwerp, stating that the Coffee Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce will support any reasonable steps which may be deemed necessary to safeguard the interests of the Coffee Trade in general and will be glad to learn the exact action which it is proposed should be taken."

War Office Contracts for Coffee.—Attention was called to the fact that these Contracts specified only for Santos, Costa Rica and Columbian Coffee, omitting all others. The Section agreed:—

"That a letter be written to the Secretary of State for War referring to the omission from the War Office Contracts for Coffee of any reference to East India Coffee and suggesting that in future contractors should be allowed to tender for Coffee from any district without exception."

At the Meeting held on 11th May, 1908, it was resolved to send a letter to the large producing countries setting forth the details of the scheme. Information to this effect has been very kindly furnished by Mr. John C. Sanderson; but the letter, which is to be sent out by the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce has not yet been received.

Mr. Sanderson has sent a copy of minutes of the proceedings, which are given below, and he writes urging that "some definite action be taken at once," "thus shewing our Committee what the Planters in India really will do towards furthering the objects of the propaganda.

COFFEE COMMITTEE.

Meeting held on Monday, 11th May, 1908, at 3 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. E. BOWRON (J. TRAVERS and SONS, LTD.), BROOKE MOCKETT, R. B. KEABLE, F. G NAUMANN (NAUMANN, GEPP & CO.), J. H. BRINDLEY (BROOKE, BOND & CO.), W. G. PARKER (HANSON & SON), A. S. BOOTH (APPLETON & CO., LTD.), WM. LE LACHEUR, JOHN C. SANDERSON, and W. J. THOMPSON.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. F. G. Ivey, Mr. John C. Sanderson presided.

Letters regretting inability to attend were received from Mr. W. W. Asser and Mr. E. A. Rucker.

Minutes.

The minutes of the Meeting of 27th of April, 1908, were read and confirmed, together with a Resolution passed by the Coffee and Cocoa Trades Section of the Chamber on the 4th May requesting the Committee to continue its efforts to formulate a scheme for the propaganda of Coffee and suggesting that the representatives of the various Coffee-producing countries should be invited to a Conference with the Committee to discuss the general basis of a scheme for submission to the Governments and interests of the various countries concerned.

Popularization of Coffee.

The object of the Meeting was to agree upon the terms of a draft scheme for the general propaganda in favour of Coffee for submission to a Conference to be convened on the 25th May, to which representatives of the various Coffee-producing countries were to be invited.

Mr. Bowron made certain suggestions as to the method of action, based upon the experience gained in the Greek Propaganda for Currants. A discussion ensued as to the annual amounts which the various Coffee-producing countries should be asked to subscribe and it was eventually decided:—

> "That this Committee recommend that each of the Coffee-producing countries shall be asked to subscribe annually not less than £2,000 for a minimum period of three years and that a letter containing this suggestion and covering the basis of the proposed general scheme of the propaganda for Coffee, be issued to the representatives in London of these countries, with an invitation to those gentlemen to attend a Conference at the Chamber on Monday, the 25th May, with the object of, if possible, agreeing upon a scheme for submission to the various Governments and interests concerned."

Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Naumann and Mr. Bowron were nominated a Sub-Committee to draft this communication.

Mr. Booth suggested that Mr. Brindley should be nominated to act with Mr. Bowron as an executive to carry into effect any scheme which might be eventually accepted, but this was left for consideration at a future date.

Mr. Booth suggested that the merchants and dealers in London should be invited to subscribe to any scheme if and when completed.

Appointment of Direct Agents in Europe.

The Committee considered letters from the Association of Negociants en Cafés, Antwerp, with enclosures, and agreed:—

> "That Mr. E. Landsberg, Mr. E. Bowron and Mr. H. Fortlage be requested to attend the Conference at Brussels, organised by the Association de Negociants en Cafés, Antwerp, on the 29th and 30th May, as representing the London Coffee Trade, and to discuss the points raised in the letters from that Association dated 12th March, 8th April, and 7th May relative to the appointment of direct Agents in Europe of the Brazilian State of Minas Geraes and to report thereafter to the next Meeting of the Coffee and Cocoa Trade Section of the Chamber."

The Meeting then terminated.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Quarterly General Meeting of this Association was held at Glenmary, on Saturday, April 18th, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. D. McARTHUR (*Chairman*), HON. V. B WILBRAHAM, J. A. RICHARDSON, H. D. DEANE, F. BISSETT, A. H. MEAD, H. S. HOLDER, E. S. STEPHENS, H. C. WESTAWAY, C. W. LACEY, T. A. VERNON, A. HAMMOND, G. C. GORDON.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

READ—Letters from the Resident and Chief Secretary to Government, *re* temporary repairs to *Kanjirapally Bridge*.

READ—Correspondence with Postmaster-General *re. Post Office at Fairfield*. It was generally agreed that since the one at the Aruday had been re-built and a new one opened at Vandi Periar the District did not require one at Fairfield.

READ—Correspondence *re. Copper Coinage*, a vote of thanks to Government was passed for so promptly stocking same at the Peermade Treasury.

KUMTI-AMMANAVAKANUR ROAD.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write again to the Chairman of the Madura District Board, and point out that this road is still in a very bad state of repair.

KURUVANOOTH REST-HOUSE.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the Superintendent, D. P. W., Trichinopoly, and point out that the new rest-house now being built near Gudalore is not in a suitable place for the use of this District, and ask them to grant us a suitable building site as near the foot of the Kumli Ghat as possible, also to grant permission to use the one near Gudalore for the present.

ACCELERATION OF MAILS BETWEEN PEERMADE AND THE HIGH RANGES.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write again on this subject.

MAINTENANCE PLANTERS' GRANT-IN-AID ROADS.

READ—Correspondence from Chief Engineer *re* 10 per cent. deduction on same. The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. H. S. Holder and seconded by Mr. H. D. Deane:—

"That the Road Committee hold a Meeting and draft a letter *re* the deduction of Grant-in-aid Roads' Grant.—(*Carried*).

THENI BRIDGE.

The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. H. S. Holder and seconded by Mr. J. A. Richardson:—

"That the Honorary Secretary be requested to communicate with the Kanan Devan Planters' Association asking them—

"(1) if they will join in the drawing up and sending of a combined petition to the Government of Madras, or

"(2) if they would be willing to send a representative to form a joint deputation to wait on the Governor of Madras with a view to obtaining the sanction of the construction of the Bridge."—(*Carried*).

RUBBER EXHIBITION.

The following Resolution was proposed by the Hon'ble V. B. Wilbraham and seconded by Mr. T. A. Vernon:—

"That this Association supports the action taken by the Chairman of the Mundakayam Association with regard to the forthcoming Exhibition in London, in September, and that those interested agree to an assessment not to exceed four annas per acre on Rubber acreage."—(*Carried*).

FITTER FUND.

Accounts of the above were submitted to the Meeting.

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER SCHEME.

The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. H. S. Holder:—

"That the Honorary Secretary be asked to write to the U. P. A. S. I., and state that for the present we cannot see our way to support the scheme."

Amendment by Mr. H. D. Deane.

"That this Association cannot definitely decide at this moment, whether they can support the scheme or not, until they have received further information as to the period for which the Scientific Officer can be procured to work in Travancore.

Seconded by Mr. A. H. Mead.

The amendment was put before the Meeting and carried.

The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. H. S. Holder, seconded by Mr. J. A. Richardson:—

"That this Association do request the Honorary Secretary to receive donation towards the Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Fund and forward same to the proper quarters and enquiries to be made as to what has been done in the way of relief for Natives and Eurasians."—(*Carried*).

PAMBANAR MARKET.

Proposed from the Chair that Government be requested to order that the Pambanar Market be held as hitherto in the Pambanar village, and to point out that the new site is quite unfitted during the monsoon time for a market-place.—(*Carried*).

(Signed) FREDERICK E. THOMAS,
Honorary Secretary.

The Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association.

Minutes of Second Quarterly General Meeting of this Association held at Yendayaar Bungalow, on the 25th of April, 1908, at the kind invitation of J. J. Murphy, Esq., preceded by Committee Meeting.

Committee Meeting.

Present:—J. A. RICHARDSON (*Chairman*), K. E. NICOLL, H. D. DEANE, B. WOLDE and H. B. KIRK (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. R. Harley was elected a Member of Committee in the place of the late Mr. L. W. Grey.

General Meeting.

Present:—In addition to above, Messrs. H. S. HOLDER, J. D. DEANE, A. E. VERNEDE, J. J. MURPHY and C. W. E. VERNEDE.

Before opening the Meeting the Chairman addressed those present as follows:—

"GENTLEMEN,

"Since we last met together we have had to mourn the loss of one of our Members, who has been cut off in the most sudden and unexpected way in the prime of life. During the short time Mr. L. W. Grey was amongst us, he took a keen interest in the District and its affairs, and the news of his death came as a great shock to everyone. We would take this opportunity of expressing our deep regret at his untimely end, and ask the Honorary Secretary to write to his family, conveying our sincere sympathy with them in their sad bereavement. The British Resident, wiring on the 16th, expressed much regret at the sad news of Mr. Grey's death."

1. Before confirming the Minutes of last Meeting it was pointed out, that Mr. B. Wolde's name was omitted from the list of those present. This being corrected the Minutes were confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

2. *Kanjirapally Bridge.*—Proposed from the Chair that Mr. Wolde should inspect the Bridge and report progress to the Honorary Secretary.

3. *Kutikal Road.*—This work is now given out on private contract, and this finishes the matter so far as this Association is concerned.

4. *International Rubber Exhibition.*—The Chairman, in introducing the matter, said: "As you are already aware, an International Rubber Exhibition is to be held in London in September next. Considering the large acreage that has been opened during the last few years in Travancore and Cochin, I think it is most advisable that we should do something to bring the Rubber Planting Industry of Travancore and Cochin States before the public. I have written on behalf of the Association to everyone I could think of interested in Rubber in Travancore and Cochin and from replies already to hand all seem in favour of a combined Exhibit. We cannot expect much in the shape of Rubber samples as very few Estates have as yet reached the tapping stage, but I am in hopes that we may get about 6 or 8 samples at least from different Estates I have already got the promise of 3 from South Travancore. The time is very short, and I have therefore taken a certain amount upon myself and trust you will approve of what I have done. After talking matters over with one or two Members of the Association I happened to meet, we came to the conclusion that as we could not expect a great many Rubber samples it would be a good thing to have an illustrated pamphlet describing the Planting Industries of Travancore and Rubber in particular for distribution at the Exhibition. I asked Mr. A. H. Mead if he could undertake the writing of this pamphlet and he has sent me the following list of subjects which he proposes touching on in his article:—

TRAVANCORE IN 1908.

1. Preface.
2. Description of Country, Physical Geography, Climate.
3. Communications—
   (*a*) Shipping, (*b*) The Back Waters, (*c*) Railways, (*d*) Roads.
4. Trade of the Country—
   Agriculture—(*a*) Cocoanuts, (*b*) Pepper, (*c*) Tea, (*d*) Rubber, (*e*) Minor products.
   Manufacture.
5. Planting Districts—
   (*a*) High Range, (*b*) Peermade, (*c*) Mundakayam, (*d*) Shencottah, (*e*) Poonmudi and Ashamboo.
6. Labour.
7. Sport.
8. Conclusion.

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"The draft of it will be ready shortly, when it will be handed over to a Committee to revise. Besides this I have cabled to the Organising Secretary for space to the value of £20 at the Exhibition. What I think we want to do now is to form a Committee to undertake the arrangements and decide the form our Exhibit is to take. Mr. Holder has been asked to join the Advisory Board in London and also Mr. Deane if he should be at Home at the time. I have asked Messrs. Rowe, White & Co., as they are largely interested in Rubber in Travancore, if they will undertake to look after our interests on their side. As regards the Committee I would propose we nominate Members of different Districts to work the thing up, and probably one Meeting will be sufficient to make the final arrangements. This I think covers all that has been done in the matter up to date and we have now to go into the ways and means and appoint a working Committee."

4A. Proposed by Mr. H. S. Holder: "That the Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association confirm the action taken by their Chairman in regard to

the proposed International Rubber Exhibition, and approach the various Rubber Associations and Districts in Travancore and Cochin with a view to appointing a Committee to consider suggestions put forward by this Association, and what further movement should be made in connection with the coming Exhibition. In the opinion of this Association, a cess not exceeding four annas an acre should be levied to meet possible expenses. Messrs. Richardson and Nicoll have consented to act on the proposed Committee representing this Association."

Seconded by Mr. H. D. Deane and carried.

4B. Proposed by Mr. H. D. Deane, seconded by Mr. B. Wolde and carried: "That Mr. H. S. Holder be asked to co-operate with Messrs. Rowe, White & Co. at Home and give them any assistance in his power."

Mr. Holder consented.

5. *Scientific Officer.*—Proposed by Mr. K. E. Nicoll: "That this Association is not prepared at the present moment to subscribe to this scheme until further details are forthcoming, as to how the Scientific Officer's services will be available for Travancore."

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy and carried.

6. *Re* the Executive Engineer's letter No. 276 of 6th April, 1908. In the opinion of the Association, this matter is a private one and has nothing to do with the Association.

7. Proposed by Mr. H. D. Deane: "That this Association request Government to expedite the building of the Peermade Travellers' Bungalow, and the waiting-room at the Kutcherri and point out that these works have been under contemplation for the last three years.

Seconded by Mr. H. S. Holder and carried.

8. *Re. Facilities for Removing Teak.*—Resolved that the Honorary Secretary write again to the Conservator of Forests calling attention to the Secretary's letter dated 11th February, 1908, to which he has had no reply.

9. *Re. Occupation of D. P. W. Camp Sheds.*—That in view of the Chief Engineer's letter No. 253 of 18th March, 1908, the Honorary Secretary should approach him to ask that a small second-class Travellers' Bungalow should be built to accommodate travellers going to Court at Ponkunnam, as it is evident the present camp shed is not always available.

10. *Re. Magistrate holding Court once a month at Mundakayam.*—Referring to the Chief Secretary's letter No. 1231, dated 19th March, 1908, that the Honorary Secretary write to the Dewan respectfully asking that the matter be re-considered, and quoting the precedent of other itinerating courts in Travancore.

This closed the correspondence.

11. Resolution proposed by Mr. H. S. Holder: "That this Association do request the Honorary Secretary to receive donations towards the Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans Fund and forward the same to proper quarters."

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy and carried. A list was then circulated and Rs.185 subscribed in the room.

12. Resolution proposed by Mr. K. E. Nicoll: "That a Labour Committee be formed to frame a set of rules to deal with the matter of bolting and twice advanced coolies, and that the Committee consist of Messrs. Richardson, K. E. Nicoll, H. D. Deane, J. J. Murphy and the Honorary Secretary."

Seconded by Mr. P. Madden and carried.

Mr. H. D. Deane proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair, which terminated the proceedings.

J. A. RICHARDSON, *Chairman.*

(Signed) H. B. KIRK, *Honorary Secretary.*

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Committee Meeting held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on May 10th, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. G. TURNER, C. G. LECHLER, C. DICKINS, J. C. LARGE, F. D. H. SHORT, and B. CAYLEY (*Chairman and Honorary Secretary*). *Visitor.*—Mr. E. W. WILKINS.

1. READ and recorded correspondence asking if the Association could supply a small quantity of Coffee to the Kalahandi Estate.

2. *Scientific Officer.*—READ and recorded with satisfaction U. P. A. S. I. Circular Nos. 18 and 22/08, stating the Mysore and Coorg Governments' willingness to each subscribe Rs. 1,000 per annum for 5 years towards the expenses.

3. *International Rubber Exhibition.*—READ letters from the Organizing Manager, International Rubber Exhibition, and the U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 19/08, dated 5th and 25th March, respectively.

Resolved.—That in our opinion South India should be represented on the Advisory Committee and that Mr. Hodgson's offer to represent us be accepted and that owners of rubber, who have trees old enough to tap, should send samples to the Exhibition together with photographs or any other exhibit which may be appropriate.

4. READ and recorded U. P. A. S. I. Circular Nos. 20 and 21/08 about miscellaneous subjects of no concern of ours.

5. *Resolved.*—That the Committee invite Mr. S. W. G. T. MacIver, I.C.S., Collector and District Magistrate, Salem, to become an honorary member of the Association.

6. *Waste Lands Supplementary Rules.*—READ letter from Mr. A. G. Nicholson asking if any reply has been received from Government to our request to be placed on the same footing as the Nilgiris as regards these.

Resolved.—That as no reply has been received a reminder be sent to Government.

(Signed) BERNARD CAYLEY,
Chairman.

The Revenue Commissioner of Mysore states in his Annual Administration Report for the year 1906-07 :—

"The cultivation of Rubber is still in the experimental stage. With a view to encourage this industry, certain concessions were granted by Government in Order No. R. 3474-84—L. R. 226-06-1, dated 28th September, 1906, after consulting the Revenue Commissioner, the Conservator of Forests and some influential European Planters. Since then, large areas have been taken up and planted and the plants are stated to be coming up well. . . . .

"*Shimoga.*—Of the 250 acres granted to Mr. Strickland for Rubber cultivation in the Shimoga Taluk, "the first 100 acres, that is to say, the area planted in 1905, is a decided success and is now a solid block of Ceará rubber something like 10 feet high. Mr. Strickland's experience of Ceará cultivation is that it does not stand transplanting well and that the best methods of propagation are either by planting stumps or by planting seeds which have just germinated in favorable weather. . . .

"Considerable clearings are reported to have been made for planting Rubber near Balehonnur, Sollebyle and Koppa and in a small way in other places. Pará, Ceará and Castilloa have all been planted, but mostly Pará. Growth in the nursery is reported to be very satisfactory; and taking the elevation into consideration, to be fairly encouraging in the field. There are a few fine seven-year old Pará trees growing on Mr. C. H. Brown's estate in Sollebyle. Fencing is found to be absolutely essential."

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extracts from an abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 28th April, 1908.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters dated 27th March and 3rd and 10th April, from the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association (London), which had been previously circulated, were brought up for final consideration and disposal.

The principal subjects dealt with in these letters were as follows:—

(*a*) *China Tea.*—Reference was made in the proceedings of last meeting to a question which Sir Seymour King had arranged to put to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking him whether his attention had been drawn to the large amount of low class China Tea lately consigned to the United Kingdom, a large proportion of which was lying unsold because of its poor quality, and whether he would take steps to prevent the importation of Teas of such an undesirable quality which could only be used to adulterate pure Indian and Ceylon Teas. With his letter of 3rd April Sir James Buckingham sent a copy of the written reply given to this question. The reply was to the effect that the Board of Customs had no official information as to the importation of such low class China Tea and that Tea must be so bad as to be unfit for human food before it could be dealt with under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875. The Chancellor went on to state that he understood the importation of such low class Tea to be due to the hardening of prices owing to the increased demand for Tea and that, though of low quality, while not unfit for human consumption, it would not be in the interest of the poorer classes to discourage the use of cheaper qualities.

(*b*) *Russian Import Duty on Tea.*—It was stated in the proceedings of the meeting of Committee of 24th March that the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg had addressed a note to the Russian Government expressing the hope that they would see their way to an early withdrawal of the surtax imposed on Indian Teas. Sir James Buckingham has heard nothing officially in regard to the reply to this note, but he understands that the surtax is to be removed.

Mosquito Blight.—The Scientific Department of the Association are now engaged in large scale experiments in the Dooars and Cachar to test the relative value of kerosene emulsion and soap solution as insecticides, and it is hoped that the results of these will be of great value in determining the best method of coping with the blight. The estimates for these experiments were before the Committee and were passed.

In a letter of 28th April, Mr. Antram mentioned that so far mosquito blight had not made its appearance in Cachar; and he suggested that Calcutta Agents should inform the Committee when they heard from their garden managers that it was appearing in any of the districts.

Light Railways in Assam.—In connection with the proposed scheme for a system of light Railways in Assam, the Committee have been informed by the Secretary of the Assam Branch that the Surma Valley Branch have been asked to appoint a Sub-Committee to consider the requirements of their Valley and that all Chairmen of Sub-Committees of the Assam Branch have been asked for their views on the question. When replies have been sent in and the report of the Surma Valley Sub-Committee is received, it is proposed to place the matter before this Association for them to take up the question with Government.

Monthly Export Circulars.—A point was discussed in connection with the Association's Monthly Export Circulars; in these there are always published two sets of figures in regard to exports from Ceylon—one taken from the price

current of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the other from circulars issued by Messrs. Forbes and Walker, Colombo. There is as a rule some discrepancy between these figures the reason being that the Chamber figures are those of all manifests completed before the date up to which the statistics are given, whereas Messrs. Forbes and Walker, when actual statistics are not available, complete their figures as correctly as possible by taking all steamers which have left up to the date of issue of their circular and calculating the quantity of Tea taken in them, according to the tonnage shipped. It was agreed that in future a foot-note should be inserted in the circulars to explain the difference between the two sets of figures.

Extract from an Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 12th May, 1908.

Scientific Department.—The Minutes of a Meeting of the Heeleaka Advisory Committee, held on 23rd April, are annexed hereto for general information.

Ceylon Import Duty.—This matter was last referred to in the proceedings of the meeting of 10th March. in which it was mentioned that the Secretary of of State had been asked by the Government of India to send them a copy of the correspondence that has passed between the Colonial Secretary and the Government of Ceylon. With a letter of 5th May from the Government of India there has been sent a copy of the despatch sent by Lord Elgin under date 28th November, 1907 to the Governor of Ceylon, asking whether in his view any steps can usefully be taken in the matter. A reply to this despatch is awaited.

THE HEELEAKA ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Committee inspected the Experimental Plots and the New Tea and approved of the method of pruning adopted on the plots under manurial treatment, which had been cut back, taking out six years wood.

It was agreed that the oilcake plots should be left unmanured for one or two years to test the residual effect of the cake applied during the past three years. Mr. Edwards suggested that manuring on one of the two sets of treated plots should be continued as an additional check, but this proposal was not agreed to by the Committee.

A suggestion was made by the Chief Scientific Officer that the clearance should be utilised as a means of ascertaining the best method of dealing with plants of this age (two years from seed) and the Committee agreed that a trial should be made of the relative merits of ordinary cultivation with the hoe, and of forking in addition to hoeing.

It was recomended that in view of the difficulty of efficient supervision of such operations as plucking and pruning in different styles by the same labour force, a suitable garden *Mohurrir* should be engaged to supersede the present sirdar, whose intelligence and authority were not considered of a sufficiently high order to ensure the proper carrying out of work entrusted to him : such a *Mohurrir*, it was considered, might be engaged at a pay of about Rs.15 to Rs.18 per mensem.

It was recommended that the proposed addition to the resident Scientific Officer's bungalow might be carried out by obtaining estimates for an iron framework and roof from a Calcutta firm.

The programme of experiments for the coming season was then considered and the Chief Scientific Officer explained the method by which he proposed to utilise certain of the plots which had undergone manurial treatment during the past three years as a basis for the initiation of further experiments on the rotation of manures.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee should be held on or about the 24th June, 1908.

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

General Committee.

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at Kandy on Friday, the 8th May, 1908.

TEA CESS.

READ letter from President, Ceylon Association in London, and reply of Chairman, Planters' Association.

Resolved:—"That the letters be minuted."

H. A. Beachcroft, Esq., Chairman of the Planters' Association, Kandy.

DEAR SIR,—At a General Meeting of this Association, held on 2nd instant, the following Resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting, recognising that after the expiry of 1908, the collection of the Tea Cess must cease, considers that in the interests of the Tea Enterprise it is highly desirable to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the retention on the Statute Book of the Tea Cess Ordinance, so as to keep alive the machinery for collecting funds in case of emergency. It recognised that the Cess will not be re-imposed unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that those interested are unanimously in favour of it."

You will no doubt see a full report of this Meeting in the Ceylon papers.

It was felt here that, in consequence of the opposition to a continuance of the collection of any Cess, however small, in 1909, it was better policy to go for the simple issue of retaining the Ordinance on the Statute Book; and Mr. Turner, after consulting with the President and Mr. Rutherford, agreed that this was the best course to pursue.

I would suggest, therefore, that your Association be consulted with a view of adopting this line, in order that a petition signed by your Association and the London Association may be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, thereby showing that on this point we are of one mind. The old Ordinances would then remain where they are, and I take it that all that would be necessary would be the Gazetting of a notice that for the present the operation of Ordinances Nos. 13 of 1902 and 20 of 1904 is suspended.

It is felt here that in face of the present opposition, the Secretary of State is sure to refuse to allow any further tax to be collected in 1909, but that, if the Ordinance is left on the Statute Book, it will be easier on some future occasion, of circumstances convince the opposition of the importance of raising money, to revive the machinery.—I am, yours faithfully, (Sd.) WM. MARTIN LEAKE, for the President.

The President, the Ceylon Association in London, 61-62, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of 10th April, I have made enquiry of Mr. Turner, and it is clear that he assented only to the principle of the resolution moved by Mr. Trail, "That in the interests of the Tea enterprise it is highly desirable to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the retention on the Statute Book of the Tea Cess Ordinance, so as to keep alive the machinery for collecting funds in case of urgency." This does not, like the resolution finally framed by your Association, assume that the collection of the Cess *must* cease after the expiry of 1908.

Your letter and proposal for joint action will be brought before our Committee at its next meeting on the 8th of May next.—I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, (Sd.) HENRY A. BEACHCROFT, Chairman, C. P. A.

Kandy, April 29th, 1908.

It was further resolved:—"That, in the opinion of this Committee, the Planters' Association should join the Ceylon Association in London in an urgent request to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the retention of the Tea Cess Ordinance, but without any reservation on their part enabling a minority to usurp the powers of a majority."

TEA.

Ceylon Tea Campaigns in Europe and America.

THE 1907 REPORTS OF MR. RENTON AND MR. COURTNEY.

The 1907 reports of Mr. J. H. Renton for Europe, and of Mr. Walter Courtney for the Eastern States of America, have been issued by the "Thirty Committee" as a pamphlet. The following are extracts ;—

The Continent of Europe.

The tea trade on the Continent in 1907 has been slow, owing to the high prices ruling throughout the year for medium and common teas. As long as retailers do not see their way to raise their prices, sales of good quality teas must be difficult.

GOOD PROGRESS MADE.

Notwithstanding the difficulties under which the vendors of Ceylon Teas have laboured, I am convinced we have made good progress, though slow, it has been steady and sure. I have been particularly struck in my travels with the following three features :—

FIRST – The greater prominence given to Ceylon tea by the retail trade in their shops and shop windows. The situation is very different from what it was in 1901. Ceylon Tea was then practically unknown by name to the retailer. When compelled through our campaign to keep pure Ceylon, or a blend containing some Ceylon as a substitute for the real article, the retailer still kept it in the background to be produced only when demanded. He now displays some kind of Tea labelled conspicuously as Ceylon. This is more or less the case everywhere, but is most noticeable in Central and South Germany and in Vienna.

SECOND.—The fact that in all the good hotels, especially in Germany and the North of Europe, a much better class of Tea is now provided. The taste for Tarry Souchongs seems to have gone and blends with Indian and Ceylon have taken their place.

THIRD.—The invasion of the Continent by the representatives of London firms was most marked last year.

All the vendors of Ceylon Tea known to me have been visited by representatives of city firms, offering Ceylons, or Indians, or blends with China. A few of these travellers have—I am sorry to say—endeavoured to push their own special wares, by representing that Ceylons were not suited to the Continental taste and that Indians or blends with Indian would do better.

The decrease in the exports to the Continent must be attributed to the high prices for medium and common Teas, which formed so marked a feature in the second half of 1906. Dealers did not anticipate that the advance in price would be maintained throughout 1907. The orders passed direct to Ceylon were small and mostly at limits which prohibited their execution. Dealers anticipated a fall in price which never came, and the consequence has been a larger hand-to-mouth supply drawn from stocks in first hands. At the same time there has been an increase in the use of all the poorer sorts. In France, Annam Teas have been employed, and in the rest of the Continent China siftings thus enabling, the retailer to sell his blends at the old price without loss.

The conscientious vendors of Ceylon Teas have found competition very difficult to meet. They have not been able to raise their prices, as vendors of other sorts have not raised theirs. The plea that, as the first cost has increased, more should be paid, is of no avail, because the public have always been able to purchase so-called Ceylon teas at the old rates from less scrupulous suppliers. This is especially the case in France, a glance at the figures giving the quantities cleared for Home consumption will show how greatly the consumption of Annam Tea has increased.

ANNAM TEA.

In 1899—the year prior to the commencement of our campaign—the figures of consumption were as follows :- -

From China direct	523,064	kilos
„ British India	124,698	„
„ Annam	46,015	„

whereas the latest figures available (those for 1906) give the following :—

From China .. Kilos 478,390 being a decrease of 8 per cent.
„ British India „ 223,096 an increase of 79 per cent.
„ Annam ... „ 273,970, an increase of 475 per cent.

It is the propaganda in the interests of Ceylon Tea which has mainly helped this enormous consumption of Annam. Little or no Annam Tea is sold under its own name, while a still less quantity is sold pure.

In 1900 and 1901 the French importers endeavoured to push Annam Tea, but owing to the wretched quality of the deliveries they were badly hit, and the principal firm in Havre, as well as the largest in Paris, assured me they would have no more to do with it. I suppose circumstances have been too strong for them, as owing to the cheapness of Annam Tea, due to its poor quality and to the differential duty in its favour, they have been compelled to follow their competitors and to use Annam largely in their blends. The fact remains that Ceylon blended with Annam is sold all over France as Ceylon Tea, and that Annam blended with China is also sold as Ceylon. The good name of Ceylon is being used to push Annam Tea. The French public does not ask for Annam tea and does not know it as such.

It is therefore somewhat vexatious to see the efforts made by the French authorities to discredit Ceylon in favour of Annam. I would call your attention to a paragraph which appeared in the *Illustration* of 18th January, being a quotation from a report made to the "Academie des Sciences" by Monsieur Dybouski. I quote the original as it appeared in the *Illustration.*

"Le bon thé de l'Indo-Chine possède un arome si délicat, qu'on lui fait subir un triage minutieux: les meilleures feuilles sont utilisées pour parfumer les thés de Chine et de Ceylon: seules les feuilles inferieures sont vendues sans mélange."

The importance of this statement is evident when it is remembered that Monsieur Dybouski is L'Inspecteur Général de l'Agriculture Coloniale and is an official of the Ministère des Colonies, and "works," as the French say, "for his Parish." Immediately on the receipt of the paper containing the para, I caused a representation to be made to Monsieur Dybouski to the effect that his report was what Mr. Churchill would call a "terminological inexactitude." He indignantly denied that he had said anything of the sort and protested that he was not responsible for what a journalist might write. He admitted that he said in *France*, Annam teas were used to flavour Ceylon Teas and referred me to his report which has not yet been published. I have reasons to believe that the report will be altered before being made public, but Monsieur Dybouski is convinced that Annam Teas are much better Teas from a hygienic point of view, than Ceylon, owing to the much smaller quantity of tannin which they contain, and cites the opinions of English doctors quoted in the English Press in favour of the milder China Teas.

I believe Monsieur Dybouski's report is only the beginning of a campaign in favour of Annam Teas, and I hear that in the contracts for services, the Government now insist on the Tea being of French origin.

Our expenditure in France ceased in 1907, but I feel it will be incumbent this year to spend a little money in the Press on refuting any paragraphs which may appear to the detriment of Ceylon Tea and I am taking steps to do all that is possible to counteract the *too much tannin* bogey. It is the necessity of efforts such as these, which make me deplore the cessation of the Cess. I do think it a mistake not to have a small sum to fall back upon in case of need should improper methods be employed to decry Ceylon Tea.

THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN.

The Indian Tea Cess Funds will be devoted to the establishment of one special agency for the sale of Tea on the Continent. This agency is to have its head depôt in Antwerp, to be managed by Mr. Harrington, who intends to acquire sub-agents and branches throughout Europe. I, on the other hand, gave support to every firm or importer who was willing to push and advertise Ceylon Tea, and as long as Ceylon Tea was sold no restrictions were made as to where it was procured, but each recipient had to provide at least two-thirds of the funds for propaganda from his own pocket. Whereas the Indian people provide all the money for propaganda, but insist that their agents shall buy their Teas from their one agency only. The policy may be a very good one, for it ensures the sale of specially selected Indian Teas and will force other competitors to keep Indian Teas; but I fear had I attempted such a plan, it would have laid me open to a charge of favouritism, and I think that on the whole mine was the better one, for it gave me a command of much larger funds and a far larger number of agents all over the Continent. If, however, our plans are different, the methods of carrying them out are the same. Mr. Harrington works on the same lines that I have adopted. Demonstrations (during which Tea is given away and sold in cup), exhibitions, distribution of samples, and advertising, and the erection of special depôts for sale of the Teas. He generously admits that India will profit much by our campaign. I feel quite certain that she will reap where we have sown, for Mr. Harrington has told me personally that, when interviewing retailers and informing them that he has come to supply them with Indian Teas, he has received the invariable reply: "Oh, you mean Ceylon!"—which shows that Ceylon Tea is known on the Continent to the general public, whereas Indian is not—as yet.

I wish the Indian campaign every success, but I only wish they had commenced at the same time as we, and had helped us to bear the burden and heat of the day from the commencement, instead of beginning when we leave off.

America.

BY MR. WALTER COURTNEY.

The work for 1907, while embodying in many ways continuation of that inaugurated in 1906, has nevertheless been different on account of one or two new features.

The first five months of the year were taken up with the work of bringing new firms to make a speciality of Pure Ceylon Tea, and at the bottom of this report I append a list of the names of those firms, together with those previously secured, and an estimated number of the retail grocers with the heads of the several firms assure me have taken up the sale of the Tea through them. The plan which we worked was as follows:—

After having induced a firm to put up a Pure Ceylon Tea packet of their own and being satisfied that the Tea contained in it was of the very best quality, and one that carefully blended made it possible to easily match it again in the open market when required, I lent them one or more men as was necessary, to go round with their salesmen to as many as possible of the retail stores with whom they dealt, instructing them and giving them all possible assistance in order that they might have every opportunity of persuading the retailer of the benefit of taking such Tea, and the value that would accrue to him by stocking an article which was daily growing in public favour and which it behoved him to keep a supply of. It was necessary to do this missionary work for it was naturally unfair to get a man to put out a new packet of his own and not give him all possible assistance in placing it before his trade and getting the necessary repeat orders which would enable him to get the profit he looked for. This of course required a great deal of work as it is one thing to get a retailer to stock a new brand of Tea, and another thing to get him to send in in repeat orders. In some cases where the Tea was a decided novelty and the

retailers complained that their customers did not ask for it, we hit upon the plan of making a house-to-house canvass, engaging say twenty young women under one or more overseers, who went to each house in a certain district and tried to take orders for this Tea on the local grocer. If they met with a rebuff, they then asked permission to make a cup of Tea in order that they might demonstrate its superior quality to that being used in the house. This they were easily able to do, as each one carried a small bag with a teapot and some Tea and where they were allowed to make the tea they had no difficulty in persuading the lady of the house to order it from her regular grocer. This resulted, of course, in the grocers in that district receiving several orders, and they were able to get rid of the Tea which they had bought from the wholesaler and send in repeat orders for a further supply. At every house so visited, they left a copy of the little booklet (enclosed) which I wrote and had printed, giving a few facts on Ceylon Tea and some half dozen pictures of the industry, in order that they might have something to remind them of the visit.

The Lectures.

The total number of lectures given from the beginning of that work till its close yesterday is 32, and the total number of people reached in this manner was something over 18,000. It has been very satisfactory to me personally to note how successful these lectures have been, the result invariably being even more beneficial than my optimistic forecast. As I have not been able to dispose of the slides so far, I propose to keep them myself until I am able to do so, and give lectures whenever I have the opportunity. . . . .

A Final Word.

There is a demand here (and shippers in Colombo cannot be too careful in paying attention to this fact) for all grades of really good Ceylon Tea, but it is nothing but a waste of time and an untold detriment to the Island and its trade, to send here some of the rubbishy Teas which one sees far too often in this market. You have an opportunity, and now is the moment to take advantage of it, remembering the famous lines.

"There comes a tide in the affairs of men, which,
"Taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

Green Tea.

The position of and the demand for Ceylon Green Tea depends entirely on the basis of Japan Tea. If Japan Tea continues on its present high level, which has been existent now for the last eight months or so, with commonest kinds worth 18 cents. on the New York market, then there is a considerable demand for Ceylon Greens of all grades. But the general value of Government standard Japan Tea has been very much lower in past years, ranging from 11 to 14 cents. and in that case great difficulty arises in selling any quantity of Ceylon Greens.

In Canada you can get as much for hyson No. 1 as for young hyson, for there they do not seem to object to rough leaf Teas provided the cup quality is right. On the other hand, in the United States there is great objection to roughness of leaf.

Without doubt Canada has intentionally helped the sale of Ceylon Green Tea rather than of Japan, though the same sentimental interest carries no weight in the United States.

The demand for Ceylon Green Tea in New York and Boston, as far as first hands go, is for young hyson at 17 to 18 cents. good pale liquoring Teas. We know of course that smaller buyers pay higher prices.

I may mention that the price recently quoted here by Messrs. ——Co., is 9½*d.* c.i.f., and that basis has kept a lot of people who generally carry Ceylon young hysons, completely out of the market.

Unless you can keep Ceylon Greens down to a reasonably low level, that is from 17 to 18 cents. for young hysons, when good stocks would be held here the market will be very limited indeed.

Great care must be taken that the cup quality is up to standard, otherwise the Teas will be rejected.

The standards used for Ceylon Greens are Moyunes Imperials for gunpowders and Moyune young hyson for Ceylon young hyson. Strangely enough, though Ceylon Greens come into competition principally with Japans, nevertheless Japans are not used as standards for Ceylon Greens.

In all grades a pale liquor and one that will remain pale, even when the Teas have been left on the leaves for hours and are stone cold, is absolutely necessary

A good standard to go by is "Arapolakande;" and to fall below this simply limits the demand at once.

FIGURES SHOWING CEYLON TEA TAKEN IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA DURING 1907.

Re-exports from United Kingdom	...	7,008,049 lbs.
Transhipments *via* United Kingdom	...	2,945,943 ,,
Direct exports *via* China ...	...	1,986,918 ,,
*Direct exports from Colombo ...	...	10,332,380 ,,
		22,273,290 lbs.

* These do not tally with Ceylon figures.

American Tea Imports in 1907.

The U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor, through the Bureau of Statistics, reports the imports of tea for the calendar year 1907, as follows:—

Countries.		POUNDS.
Japan		45,814,892
China		33 135,985
British grown tea from:—		
United Kingdom	9,820,195	
British North America	2,373,345	
East Indies	7,170,671	
		19,364,211
Other countries		802,255
Total imports, 1907		99,117,343
Total imports, 1906		89,437,757
Total imports, 1905		96,779,145
Total, three years		285,334,245
Average annual import		95,111,415

From the above it seems that Japan furnished 46·4 per cent. of the total imports; the Chinese Empire, 33⅓ per cent; all other countries, 20·3 per cent. This indicates a steady increase in the use of Ceylon and Indian tea. Of the imports in 1907 there was exported 1,436,840 pounds, leaving net imports of 97,680,503 pounds, or 1·15 pounds per capita, a gain of $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 pound over 1906.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

INCORPORATED.

Popularization of Coffee.

Though particulars of the scheme outlined by the London Chamber of Commerce have reached India, they must for the present be regarded as confidential; all that can be said is that the aim of the scheme is to make Coffee more popular than it now is in the United Kingdom and some other countries, with a view to increasing the consumption of this staple; and that the carrying out of the measures suggested will involve the expenditure of a fair amount of money.

The representatives in Great Britain of various Coffee-producing countries attended a Conference on the 25th May, 1908, at the rooms of the London Chamber of Commerce. From what Mr. Sanderson writes to the U. P. A. S. I. it would appear that the majority were in favour of a levy of ½*d.* per cwt. on all Coffees exported from the producing countries; but no details of the discussion are forthcoming

Brazil having already promised substantial financial support to a separate scheme in behalf of San Paulo coffee alone, there is some doubt whether that country will agree to the imposition of a cess of ½*d.* per cwt. Any deficiency in her contribution would have to be made good from elsewhere. As the largest producer, Brazil, if the contributions from all quarters were reckoned on the basis of a fixed sum per cwt., would have to provide the majority of the funds needed

Letters have been addressed to the Consuls and Ministers of the different countries, and a Meeting is to be held on the 12th October, when the replies received by the Chamber will be announced and considered.

Mr. Sanderson observes that the Coffee trade generally is now taking great interest in the matter. He does not see why the propaganda in behalf of Coffee should do any injury to Tea. There is room for both. Beer is the beverage that both Tea and Coffee should seek to displace.

The Annual Meeting, 1908.

This will open at Bangalore, on the 17th August, probably at 3 P.M. (a Committee Meeting being held in the morning of that day, commencing at 11 A.M.). It is expected that the Meeting will be held at the West End Hotel, Bangalore. The proprietors have kindly promised the use of a room for the occasion, and this arrangement will help to promote social intercourse among the delegates from the various Planting Districts.

It may be mentioned that the Annual Horse Show at Bangalore will be held on the 18th and 19th August.

Statistics of Production of Tea in India.

The General Committee of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, have issued to all members of the Association a Circular on the subject of the improvement of the statistics of the production of Tea in India. The U. P. A. S. I. has been requested to take this matter up, the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence having asked for co-operation in the endeavour to obtain accurate and punctual returns from Planters in regard to the particulars he requires.

The Circular is given below, and Planters will notice that no use is to be made of individual returns, except as material for the compilation of the general returns of India.

CIRCULAR.

CALCUTTA, *23rd June*, 1908.

DEAR SIRS,

The General Committee have been addressed by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence on the subject of the improvement of the statistics of the production of tea in India. These statistics are based on returns obtained from Tea Planters on the understanding that all information given as regards particular plantations will be regarded as strictly confidential, no use being made of it, except as material for the compilation of the general returns for the whole of India. Efforts have been made more than once both by Government and by the General Committee to improve these statistics and although it has been found that a great improvement has already been effected, there is, the Committee are informed, room for more.

2. The Director-General has found that the returns submitted are not always complete, and he supposes that there may be some hesitation on the part of Planters, who do not recognise that it is no part of the intention of Government to utilise the information, except in framing the general returns of India, to give the particulars asked for. In British provinces arrangements have been made to frame estimates as far as possible for those estates for which no returns are furnished by the Planters, but in Native States—*e.g.* Travancore—there are not the same facilities, with the result that the returns are incomplete and inaccurate.

3. The co-operation of the General Committee has been again invited by the Director-General to secure satisfactory statistics, and I am directed to request your assistance in the matter. The statistics are of great importance to the commercial public in general and to the Tea industry in particular, and it will be recognised that unless accurate and punctual returns are submitted to the Director-General, the figures compiled will not be reliable. The Committee therefore venture to express the hope that you will explain to your Managers the purpose for which the returns are desired and impress upon them the importance of accuracy.

Scientific Officer Scheme.

The Madras Government wish to have an early statement as to the sum that Planters are willing to subscribe towards this scheme, and desire to know if this subscription will be continued *for five years*, that being the usual term of engagement in the case of an appointment of the kind under reference. Some District Planters' Associations have promised annual subscriptions for the above period; others, only for three years.

Mr. C. E. Welldon, a Ceylon Planter, considers that four-year-old Rubber trees in Java and the Straits Settlements are practically equal, and that they are both equal to 5 and 5½ year trees in Ceylon. On account of the soil and the absence of droughts the yield in Java (especially) and the Straits should, this gentleman thinks, exceed that of Ceylon or South India.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association held in the Munzerabad Club, Saklaspur, on Thursday, the 9th April, 1908.

Present:—Messrs J. G. H. CRAWFORD (*President*), H. D. CHALDECOTT, F. M. HAMILTON, A R. PARK, S. SLADDEN, T. ANDERSON, C. LAKE, C. K. PITTOCK, J. G HAMILTON, W. L. CRAWFORD, E. M PLAYFAIR, S. H. DENNIS, L. F. LAKE, R. F. LAMB (*Honorary Secretary*).

Also by Proxy:—GRAHAM ANDERSON, C.I.E., and R. A. ANDERSON.

Notice convening the Meeting was read:—

President's Address.

GENTLEMEN,

In addressing you at this our 44th Annual General Meeting, I am glad to be able to congratulate the majority of you on having picked high average crops and as the prospect in the main for 1908-09 is promising, I trust that no such adverse conditions as were experienced in some localities this season will again occur to mar the present hopeful outlook. The quality of our Coffee this year is scarcely up to the average, owing doubtless to the long drought after blossoming and the heavy monsoon followed by rain during crop time. Prices although somewhat better than those realized a few years ago are hardly equal to expectations, but let us hope that better fortune will be experienced in the new season, seeing that our own efforts and those of our agents who are responsible for the preparation on the Coast being guided by past experience are annually directed towards doing what is possible to add to the attractiveness of our produce.

U. P. A. S. I.

The result of the last Meeting has already been placed before you, so I need not touch on what was done further than to give emphatic support to the very cogent reasons which were advanced by your delegate, Mr. W. L. Crawford, for the urgent necessity for a railway from Arsikere to Mangalore through the Planting Districts which has not only been strongly advocated by us for many years past, but has been sympathetically considered, I might now go further and say advocated, by the Mysore Durbar and is classed in a recent official report among those desirable protects which may eventually be sanctioned; let us hope, gentlemen, in the very near future. The rapid development of mining and other industries in this State has during the past few years vastly improved the prospects of the line being remunerative, I might almost say its prospects of being a paying concern have been placed beyond a doubt, and as the extension of railway communication is a matter of great moment to us I am certain you will agree that no effort should be relaxed to bring the matter repeatedly to the notice of the Authorities concerned as one that will tend towards the material development of industrial prosperity in this Province.

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER.

It is with extreme regret that I have to inform you that Dr. Lehmann is leaving the service of the Mysore Government. It is unfortunate that the Press have not yet been informed what re-arrangements of the Mysore Agricultural Department are to be made, as Dr. Lehmann has in so many ways done sound good work and fully justified his appointment. I am sure you will concur with me when I say that as on many points in connection with our industry we have received useful advice and valuable suggestions from him we cannot but contemplate the discontinuation of his services with regret as

he has acquired much experience of local conditions and requirements, which would take many years for his successor to gain. We cannot bring ourselves to believe that after incurring the expense of erecting and equipping one of the best laboratories in India, the Durbar would in any way sacrifice the efficiency of a department so indispensably necessary to the welfare of a State whose chief industry is agriculture, which all the world over is acknowledged to be susceptible of immense improvement under the guidance of experienced scientific officers.

If Dr. Lehmann leaves Mysore no community will regret his loss more than ours and he will carry away with him the best wishes of the Members of this Association for his future happiness and prosperity coupled with our deep and heartfelt sympathy in the great bereavement he has sustained in the loss of Mrs. Lehmann.

Magistracy and Social.

We have to thank His Highness the Maharajah for permitting Mr. P. W. R. Wetherall, on his return from England, to resume his duties in the Hassan District.

It is with regret we notice the approaching withdrawal from active service of Mr. McHutchin, the Chief Engineer of the State, and we wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement.

Colonel Grant, another old and trusted officer of His Highness's Durbar, has severed his connection with the State after many years arduous labour and left with the best wishes of the Planting Community for whom in days of old he did so much. In the same way that the Durbar are mainly indebted for the admirable survey of Mysore, so the Planters both Native and European are under obligations to him for the very sympathetic consideration accorded to all cases brought to his notice and will ever remember him as the officer entrusted with the duty of carrying the permanent settlement and the issue of new title deeds into execution. That he and Mrs. Grant may be spared many years to enjoy a well earned rest is our sincere wish.

Medical.

As Saklaspur has within recent years greatly increased in size and importance and is now one of the chief towns in the Mysore Malnad, I think I am expressing the wishes of all communities in saying that it is very necessary for their welfare that the present Dispensary be increased in size and efficiency, if fact, brought up to a first-class standard with in-wards and a fully qualified staff, as the present one is not sufficient to cope with the work. Serious cases cannot be treated, and life has to be risked in taking patients suffering from illness or accidents to Hassan.

Jungle Fires.

Owing to the frequency of jungle fires and in many instances their undoubtedly malicious origin, could not something be done by the Police or Village Patels with a view to preventing or lessening their occurrence? I think something might be effected in this way if rewards were offered for the conviction of offenders if the Patels were made responsible or held accountable for all fires in their Gramas. For the past four years I have been a sufferer in this way, and on two occasions very serious damage might have been done to one of my estates had not the fire been discovered in time. What makes me think these fires are often not accidental is that in my own case Bazaar day when nearly everyone would be away has invariably been chosen for setting light to Government waste land immediately adjacent to my property, the incendiaries knowing that the flames could but spread to and endanger the same and must have been aware also that all or nearly all the men would be absent from the lines, thus rendering the chance of stopping the spread of or putting the fire out remote. Neighbours of mine, I think, have suffered in a similar manner. The subject is an important one and deserves attention.

CONCLUSION.

I will conclude, gentlemen, by tendering you my resignation and thanking you for the compliment conferred in making me your President; the duties connected with this post have been rendered very light, owing to the interest and energy displayed in the affairs of the Association by our able Honorary Secretary, Mr. R. Lamb, to whom our best thanks are due.

J. G. D. CRAWFORD.

Honorary Secretary's Report.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting the Forty-fourth Annual Report of the South Mysore Planters' Association, I have divided the year's work in two groups—matters of general importance and those which might be called domestic politics.

Of the former the most important subject which claimed our attention was the Coffee Popularisation Scheme, inaugurated by the London Chamber of Commerce, to which as you are aware we have given our support. There have been many and varied schemes put forward from time to time to help the Coffee-producer, but, to my mind, not one has had on the face of it such elements of success as this. It commands our hearty support, because it goes to the fountain head and brings our produce in an attractive form directly before the consumer, and I see no reason why the success of the Indian Tea Association, in similarly increasing their markets, should not be equalled by Coffee Planters, especially with such men to guide the scheme as we have in the Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce who have taken the matter up so thoroughly. Our best thanks are due to Mr. Sanderson for his untiring efforts in this direction.

If you have followed the progress of the scheme as detailed monthly in the pages of the *Planters' Chronicle*, you will have seen the hearty way in which other Coffee-producing countries are taking the matter up and when all particulars of financial support have been received by the Committee in charge I trust there will be no delay in pushing on with the actual working of the scheme. So far as Southern Indian support is concerned, we are unanimous that a Government collected cess, at ports of export, is the only satisfactory way of collecting the necessary funds, and when the time comes to approach the Imperial Government I have no doubt they will give us the same consideration they have given the Tea Planters in this respect. The sum so collected should make a substantial contribution towards the finances of the scheme and entitle us to look for our fair share of the increased demand for our product which we look for as the fruits of this campaign.

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER.

The question of the appointment of a Scientific Officer, who will devote all his time to the interest of the Planting Community of Southern India, now rests, as you are aware, with the Government of Madras, who have taken up the matter in a most sympathetic spirit. They have approached the various local Governments concerned for their financial support to the scheme and the promises of assistance have so far been satisfactory. Some have not yet replied, but there is no doubt that the question is receiving considerable support such as to warrant the hope that we shall soon have a qualified Scientist to help us in our difficulties.

I am sure you will have read with regret that we, in Mysore, are soon to lose the valuable help of Dr. Lehmann, who has always so ungrudgingly given us his assistance whenever required. It is extremely to be deplored that his stay with us in Mysore has been so short, as it means a break if not a cessation in the valuable experiment he has been conducting. What the policy of the Mysore Government is going to be in the future we do not yet know, but what we do know is that they will go far before they get a better man than Dr. Lehmann as head of their Agricultural Department. His loss makes it the more imperative that we have a Scientific Officer of our own.

U. P. A. S. I.

You all know that the United Planters' Association of South India lost all its Reserve Capital in the failure of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., and at the Annual Meeting held in Bangalore last August, the question of ways and means was under discussion. It was felt by the majority of the delegates present that the present system of subscription by the various Associations was unbusinesslike and unsatisfactory and the matter was referred back to the Associations for consideration The delegate from Central Travancore suggested a uniform acreage basis for subscriptions and this has since received the support of those Associations who have considered the matter. You will be asked to-day whether you approve of the suggestion or not and if not what alternative you would propose.

Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.

The records of our agitation for this railway would make very humorous reading for an outsider, but for us it is too serious to be amusing. Year after year we have pressed our claims and the claims of the Province on the Mysore Government and have been put off time and again with fair promises and assurances which have gone no further and we are no better off now than when the question was first mooted. Last year we were given to hope that the Mysore Government had at last begun to consider the needs of the District and that a beginning was going to be made in the way of opening up the country by means of increased transport facilities. This we were led to expect from what transpired when the Dewan received a deputation from this Association in the Travellers' Bungalow at Saklaspur when he was on tour in the District. There we were told that the Durbar themselves had decided to make a railway from Mysore to Hassan and Arsikere, while further, we were again informed that so far as Mysore was concerned the Durbar were only waiting a favourable opportunity for bringing before the Madras Government the need for the construction of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway, the Mysore portion of which the Durbar was quite prepared to undertake. In face of this it was rather surprising and humiliating to us, who have agitated for this Railway so long and so consistently, to read in the daily papers the report of His Excellency the Governor of Madras' speech to a deputation of the residents of Mangalore, who addressed him on the subject of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway, that as those who would benefit most by the construction of this line did not seem particularly anxious for its construction he feared it would be indefinitely shelved. Our Association met and resolved to send a deputation to wait on His Excellency the Governor of Madras and lay our case before him personally, but before this was done your Executive considered it advisable to obtain from the Mysore Government a distinct pronouncement of their attitude with regard to this railway which we could place before His Excellency, as without this the deputation would be fruitless. In the meantime the Mysore Dassara Representative Assembly had met in Mysore and the construction of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway was discussed. I was instructed, therefore, to write to the Secretary to the Government of Mysore for Railways and ask whether we might take as authoritative the report of the Dassara proceedings on the matter of this railway which appeared in the *Madras Mail* of 20th October last and which stated :—" A request to devote certain sums annually for the extending of railways in the State elicited the reply that Government were concerting measures to secure permission from the Government of India to raise a loan in the English market. The Dewan also replied that Government were about to take early steps for the construction of the Arsikere-Mangalore line." I have now had a reply from the Secretary to the Government of Mysore for Railways in which he says that there is no ground for the statement contained in the *Madras Mail* of 20th October, 1907. In the circumstances it was a needless waste of money for the Deputation appointed by you to proceed to Madras and they have delayed going pending instructions from this Meeting. As this matter comes upon the agenda I need not refer to it further in this Report.

LABOUR.

This subject comes up for discussion at to-day's Meeting at the request of several Members of our Association. In many cases this year labour difficulties have been so acute that it was with the utmost difficulty coolies could be got to pick the crops. Your Executive thought that as North Mysore Planters were experiencing similar difficulties it would be advisable to meet the North Mysore Planters' Association in Conference on the subject and try and concert some joint action which would help to meet the situation. I have accordingly written the Honorary Secretary of the North Mysore Planters' Association, who has replied that they will fix a date some time this month for a Conference at Chickmagalur. I have not yet heard what date has been fixed, but to-day you will be asked to state your views and suggest remedies so that we may have our proposals to meet the requirements of South Mysore cut and dry to place before the North Mysore Planters' Association when we meet at Chickmagalur.

We now come to matters of more or less local interest.

GAMBLING.

During the year, this evil has been on the increase, in several cases to such an extent, especially amongst Ghaut coolies, that, on the requisition of several Members of this Association, your Executive instructed me to write to the Deputy Commissioners of Hassan and Kadur drawing their attention to the fact and asking that the provisions of the Gambling Act be put in force. I have done so, but so far have not heard from either what steps have been taken. There is no doubt that a lot of the petty thieving of crops, &c., which goes on can be directly traced to this cause and it is to be hoped that Government will speedily take action in the matter.

ILLEGAL SALES OF LAND.

At the Special General Meeting of this Association held on 6th October last, you instructed me to write to the Deputy Commissioner of Hassan, drawing attention to the irregularities that have been occurring for some time back in this connection, as the rights of private individuals were being ignored and Government was being defrauded of its just revenue. The Commissioner appointed the Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Saklaspur, to hold an enquiry into the matter, at which Mr. Park and I attended. The Association's complaint was fully substantiated by what transpired during the enquiry and having made good our case it now rests with Government to deal with the offenders.

THEFTS OF PRODUCE.

Mr. J. G. Hamilton is, I believe, going to bring before the Meeting a proposition regarding the giving of rewards for the detection of thefts of produce. The number of convictions in proportion to the amount of thieving that goes on requires serious attention and will not in any way be checked by the absurdly inadequate sentence accorded the other day in the Amildar's Court, Saklaspur, where thieves, caught red-handed, were let off with a paltry fine of Rs.10. I say paltry considering the amount of Coffee stolen. Unless examples are made of those caught the practice will go on increasingly.

I have requested the Authorities at Kadur and Hassan to specially watch the Jaatra at Daygoond this year. This has long been the happy hunting ground of the resetter. They have taken the matter up and it remains to be seen whether anything will result.

FINANCE.

A very meagre response was accorded my circular of 18th December last calling for funds, and I trust that those who have not already done so will send in their subscriptions at once, as I have not enough in hand to pay our subscription to the U. P. A. S. I., which is wanted at headquarters.

In tendering my resignation I have to thank you for your forbearance during the past year and if I have failed to satisfy any I hope you will accept my apology for any shortcomings. My best thanks are due to our worthy President, who, with the Committee, has enabled me by the valuable assistance rendered to carry on the duties I took over temporarily but which have been unavoidably extended throughout the year.

RODERICK F. LAMB,
Honorary Secretary, S. M. P. A.

CADAMANY, SAKLASPUR,
9th April, 1908.

Proposed by Mr. F. M. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Park, "that the Honorary Secretary's Report be adopted."—*Carried unanimously.*

Dr. Lehmann.—Proposed by Mr. J. G. Hamilton, and seconded by W. L. Crawford, "this Association learns with extreme regret that Dr. Lehmann is severing his connection with the Mysore Durbar and wishes to place on record its appreciation of his valuable services to the Planting industry of Mysore."—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. W. L. Crawford, and seconded by Mr. J. G. Hamilton, "this Association wishes to offer to Dr. Lehmann its sincere sympathy and condolence in his bereavement."—*Carried.*

Aglehutly Stealing Case.—Mr. Park moved that this was a case where the Association should give its support to Mr. Russell in any further proceedings which he might take towards getting a re-trial, and it was unanimously agreed that the Association enquire into the matter.

Labour.—Mr. J. G. Hamilton and others having stated at some length their views on this question and the causes that have led up to the scarcity of labour in S. Mysore during the past season, it was proposed by Mr. Hamilton, and seconded by Mr. E. M. Playfair: "that this Association does not regard a rise of pay as the proper remedy for any scarcity of labour which may exist and which was this year largely induced by exceptional circumstances, but suggests that those who find any allowance for dearness of grain necessary may pay all coolies who work six days a week an extra batta not to exceed ¼-anna per diem."—*Carried unanimously*—on the understanding that the Association recognises the right of each individual Member to act according to his own peculiar circumstances.

The feeling of the Meeting was that Mysore Planters would have to go further afield to make up the deficiencies in their labour forces and to do this it was essential that there should be reciprocity of service between Mysore and the Madras Presidency, which is not provided for under Act XIII. It was decided to form a Committee to go into the matter and find out wherein Act I of 1903 required amendment to suit local requirements so that, if it was found necessary to apply for the enforcement of this Act, the Association would be in a position to approach the Mysore Durbar with their views as to what was absolutely essential in the way of meeting local conditions—the Durbar having promised to make such amendments as were proved to be necessary.

The following gentlemen were appointed to this Committee :—

Proposed by Mr. W. L. Crawford, and seconded by Mr. E. M. Playfair: Messrs. Graham Anderson, C.I.E., A. R. Park, J. G. Hamilton, J. G. H. Crawford, and R. F. Lamb.

Railways.—The Honorary Secretary having read the correspondence that has passed between the Association and the Secretary to the Government of Mysore for Railways and detailed the steps that have already been taken in the matter it was proposed by Mr. W. L. Crawford, and seconded by Mr. E. M. Playfair: "in view of the discrepancies between personal interviews, newspaper reports and official correspondence, that the Honorary Secretary be

requested to lay the matter of the proposed Arsikere-Mangalore Railway before the Resident in order to ascertain what steps have actually been taken and what are the prospects of the project."—*Carried.*

U. P. A. S. I. Finances.—With regard to the proposed readjustment of basis of subscription to the U. P. A. S. I. which comes up for discussion at the next Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. in Bangalore, it was agreed to give the Association's delegates a free hand in the matter.

Officials for New Year.—The following gentlemen were appointed as the officers of the Association for the coming year:—

Mr. J. G. H. CRAWFORD, *President*
„ R. F. LAMB, *Honorary Secretary.*
„ W. L. CRAWFORD
„ C. K. PITTOCK
„ A. R. PARK
„ E. M. PLAYFAIR
„ J. G. HAMILTON
„ F. M. HAMILTON
} *Committee.*

Messrs. C. LAKE and T. ANDERSON, *In-waiting.*

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

The Quarterly General Meeting was held in Yercaud on Monday, June 8th, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. C. DICKINS, J. C. LARGE, B. S. KIDD, W. RAHM, F. D. H. SHORT, C. G. LECHLER, W. T. LECHLER, and B. CAYLEY (*Chairman* and *Honorary Secretary*)

1. The Proceedings of the Committee Meeting held on May 10th were confirmed.

2. *Accounts.*—These shewed a balance in hand on June 1st of Rs. 376-8-3.

3. *Election of Committee.*—The Rev. Father Rochet, Messrs. B. S. Kidd and W. Rahm were elected in place of Messrs. S. M. Hight, G. Turner and C. Rahm, resigned.

4. *Delegate to U. P. A. S. I.—Resolved* that the Committee be requested to appoint a delegate.

5. *Coffee Passes.*—Recorded letter $\frac{419}{m\ d}$ of 11-5-08 from the Collector and District Magistrate, Salem.

6. *Popularization of Coffee—Resolved* that the delegate of this Association be authorized to support any feasible scheme which the U. P. A. S. I. may adopt at their Annual Meeting.

7. *Waste Lands.*—Recorded with satisfaction Proceedings No. 89, dated 2nd May, 1908, of the Board of Revenue, Madras, sanctioning the extension of the concession for the purchase of waste lands on the Nilgiris, to the Shevaroys.

8. *Member of District Board.*—READ letter from the Rev. Father Rochet accepting representation on the Salem District Board, *vice* Mr. G. Turner, resigned.

9. *Scientific Officer.*—The delegate of this Association at the U. P. A. S. I. to receive instructions to support any action in favour of the appointment of a Scientific Officer.

10. *Postal Delays.—Resolved* that the Honorary Secretary be asked to bring to the notice of the Postmaster-General, Madras, the late hours, often after 10 A.M. at which letters are delivered at the local Post-office in Yercaud, asking him to kindly expedite the delivery, as the interval between arrival of the Mail at Suramangalam and delivery of letters in Yercaud, *viz.*, 6 hours for a distance of 13 miles is excessive.

11. *Dispensary in Yercaud.—Resolved* that the Honorary Secretary address the President, District Board, Salem, through the Surgeon in charge of the Dispensary at Yercaud, asking on what scale medicines are charged for at the Dispensary, suggesting that, as no prescriptions are made up unless accompanied by cash, the charge should be reduced, as it is understood that the profit now made on the sale of drugs is very large.

12. *Coffee Bug.*—READ letter from Mr. Gompertz sending samples of Bug for identification This Bug is well-known to members, who cannot however classify it. *Resolved* to ask Mr. Gompertz to collect some and send to Mr. Lefroy for identification at the Association's expense.

13. READ and recorded U. P. A. S. I. Circular Nos. 24 and 26/08.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) BERNARD CAYLEY,
Chairman.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held at Meppadi Club, 10th June, 1908.

Present.—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, Messrs. B. MALCOLM, D. H. MCLEOD, S. H. POWELL (Jun.), MR. H. B. WINTERBOTHAM and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Visitor.—Mr. P. C. Guard.

In the Chair.—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott.

Proceedings of last Meeting were confirmed.

General Correspondence.—READ and confirmed.

1357. *Destitute Coolies.*—READ letter from Deputy Magistrate: "The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask for further particulars as to specific cases and to request that any case occurring is promptly reported to the Estate concerned and to the Association."

1358. *Planting Member of Council.*—The Association recorded with satisfaction the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. C. E Abbott, as Member of the Madras Legislative Council.

1359. *Extradition.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to Secretary of the United Planters' Association, Southern India, with reference to this and the Fugitive Offenders' Act together with his memorandum on the latter Act. To be published (*vide* Appendix).

1360. *Tea Stealing and Tea Passes.*—The Honorary Secretary reported that owing to his absence from the country there had been delay in obtaining Books of Pass forms—these were now to hand and specimens were on the table. He informed the Meeting that every Factory in Wynaad and all Factories in Nilgiri District, known to send Tea to Calicut through Wynaad, had joined in the scheme and agreed to the use of Passes.

He was asked to inform all Factories interested, the scheme would come into force from 1st July, and to address the Nilgiri Planters' Association on the matter.

Resolved that in future Passes shall be numbered.

1361. *Rail Charges on Tea, Calicut to Madras.*—READ letter from Mr J. S. Nicolls: "The Honorary Secretary to address Southern Indian Railway pointing out the probability of a largely increased column of traffic in Tea if the rate charged were not so high."

1362. *Pooderpordi Hotel.*—The Honorary Secretary informed Members he had paid the usual grant of Rs. 50.—*Confirmed.*

He also reported that the title deeds to the Hotel had been found and were now in his possession.

1363. "*Westward Ho*" *Bungalow.*—Deeds relating to this are also in his possession. In conjunction with Mr. Malcolm, he was instructed to attend to the matter of renewal of lease.

1364. *Subscription.*—Mr. Waddington proposed alteration of Rule VII in accordance with notice given at Meeting held last December, as follows:—

"The annual subscription, payable in advance, at or before the General Meeting, held each January, shall be Rs.12 to meet the expense of the Association, plus a cess of eight pies per acre under cultivation, to meet the subscription to the United Planters' Association of Southern India. Non-payment before the end of March shall debar Member from voting or addressing a Meeting until the subscription is paid."

Seconded by Mr. Malcolm and *carried unanimously.*

1365. *Act I of* 1903, *Attesting Authorities.*—Messrs. W. R. M. McKenzie and G. H. Welchman were appointed to witness execution of labour contracts, under G. O. No. 413, dated 12th March, 1908.

1366. *Act I of* 1903, *Record of Contracts Attested.*—READ G. O. No. 661, regretting that Government were unable to frame a rule as suggested by this Association as proper maintenance of such a record would be impracticable in places outside the jurisdiction of the Madras Government. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask if Government would consider the framing of such a rule in the Madras Presidency.

1367. *Act I of 1903, Proposed Amendments.*—READ G. O. 367, with reference to postponement of the matter.

1368. *Act I of 1903, Death of Complainant.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary, Nilgiri Planters' Association, bringing to notice case in which a maistry having filed a suit against defaulting labourers died before the disposal of the case, although offence alleged was criminal, Magistrate withdrew cases from his file on grounds that all contracts legally are terminated by death of either party and that only remedy under circumstances was through Civil Court.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write for further information.

1369. *U. P. A. S. I.*—It is proposed to hold the Annual Meeting on the 17th August. The Honorary Secretary was asked to bring to notice of the Meeting, the enticement of labour, advanced by Planters in this District, to emigrate to Ceylon.

1370. *Scientific Officer Scheme.*—Owing to changes in proprietors since subscriptions were promised to this scheme, the Honorary Secretary was asked to issue a Circular, asking that subscriptions be confirmed.

1371. *Police Reward Fund.*—Although several Members have not yet replied to Circular, asking for subscriptions, the amount promised so far is Rs.240.

1372. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. Circulars Nos. 17 to 30.
I. T. A. Circulars Nos. 2 to 7.
Tea Statistics, February, March and April.
I. T. Cess Committee, Bonus on Green Tea.
Report, Collectors', Malabar and Nilgiris, on working Act I of 1908 to 1907.

Scientific Report, Agricultural Stations at Samalkot, Koilpatti, Bellary, Attur, Talur, Hazon,

Agricultural Ledger, Mexican Poppy.

Roll Members, N. Mysore Planters' Association.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) C. R. ABBOTT,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

APPENDIX.

Note as to *Extradition.*

Rendition of an accused person, who has fled from one part of the British Empire to another British Possession appears to be governed by the Fugitive Offenders' Act and not by Extradition Treaties.

Fugitive Offenders' Act is 44 and 45 Victoria, 1881. It is divided into four parts and under Part II, it is provided that certain British Possessions, owing to their contiguity, may be grouped together by order in Council And Ceylon, Strait Settlements and East Indian Territories were so grouped by order in Council, dated 12th December, 1885.

When a warrant has been issued in one part of such a group, a Magistrate in another part of same group may if satisfied all is in order back the warrant and have accused arrested, and sent to Magistrate who issued the warrant. The Magistrate who is asked to back such a warrant may decline to send accused back to where he came from if he considers the charge too trivial, or that charge was not made in good faith in the interests of justice.

In cognizable cases Government bear expenses, in non-cognizable cases the Prosecutor, who must enter into an indemnity bond before any steps are taken. The Court issuing the warrant has to send a Police Officer to the country to which the offender has fled to bring him back, so that costs involved are considerable.

It is under this Fugitive Offenders' Act that Ceylon Planters obtain arrest of bolters from Ceylon and we have exactly the same rights of obtaining arrest of defaulting maistries and labourers who have bolted to Ceylon.

The Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual General Meeting, held at the Armoury, Ootacamund, on Monday, the 22nd June, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. H D. WILBRAHAM, E F. BARBER, L. L. PORTER, E. G. WINDLE, J. H. WAPSHARE, A. F. VANS AGNEW, T. J. KENNA, A. S. CRUM, R. L. PROUDLOCK and C. H. BROCK (*Honorary Secretary*). *Visitor.*—Mr. H. P. SAMPSON.

Mr. E. G. WINDLE was voted to the Chair.

1. The Proceedings of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed after previous circulation.

2. The Honorary Secretary reported that he had called the Annual General Meeting for the 14th April last, but the Meeting could not be held as only 4 Members were present, and therefore it had been postponed till to-day He then read his Report for the last year, which ran as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of laying before you the Report for the last year, and submit for your approval the Accounts, which I trust you will find in order.

The year opened with 47 Members. Of these one has died, and 3 new Members have joined. This leaves the present number of Members at 49.

The Accounts, which, as usual, are closed up to the 31st December last, show a cash balance of Rs.70-13-5. The balance of assets over liabilities amounts to Rs.112-9-5, as against Rs.22-3-5 last year.

The U. P. A. S. I. has received its first dividend in the matter of the insolvency of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., amounting to Rs.908-12-0.

Our late Planting Member, Mr. H. P. Hodgson, has left India, and Mr. C. E. Abbott, of Wynaad, is being nominated to take his seat on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George as our representative.

A matter of great importance to the Parent Association has been the endeavour to arrange the District Associations' subscriptions to the U. P. A. S. I. on an adequate basis, and I am glad to be able to report that most Associations have agreed to subscribe at the rate of 8 pies per acre under cultivation on the area represented by its Members. This, it is hoped, will take the place of the old tariff which allowed District Associations' subscriptions to vary from 3 pies per acre as a minimum to 1 anna per acre as a maximum.

Scientific Officer.—This scheme seems to be steadily progressing, and the Madras Government is in full sympathy with the United Planters' Association on the subject and has practically promised to see us through with it. The various Governments are giving their support, and it is most probable that at the next General Meeting the scheme will be fairly started.

Act I of 1903.—The amendments to this Act, which we asked for last year, have not yet been carried through, the reason being that the Government of India proposed some new amendments to Sections 33 and 35. These amendments were practically accepted by this Association as no objections were received in reply to the Circular that was sent out about them, but the Wynaad Association has objected very strongly. Consequently the affairs are at a deadlock, and we requested the Government of Madras to postpone dealing with the amendments, till the Wynaad and Nilgiri Associations had an opportunity of coming to some definite agreement in regard to these sections.

Roads.—There have been still a few complaints with reference to up-keep of some roads; and in spite of former representation from this Association, the Hulikal road is still being complained about, as no radical improvements have been made in it, such as are reported to be very necessary. Other subjects in progress are in the agenda of to-day's meeting and needed no special mention as yet in the Report.

In conclusion, I beg to place my resignation, with those of the Committee, in your hands.

Mr. J. H. Wapshare proposed, and T. J. Kenna seconded, "that the Report and Accounts be adopted and passed."—*Carried.*

3. *Election of Office-bearers.*—The following Members were elected to serve on the Committee for the current year:—Messrs. W. C. Deane, E. G. Windle, L. C. Liebenrood, A. F. Vans Agnew, E. F. Barber, J. H. Wapshare, J. McKenzie, F. M. Cockburn, W. Rhodes James, H D. Wilbraham, J. Harding Pascoe, A. S. Crum and L. L. Porter. Mr. C. H. Brock was re-elected as Honorary Secretary. The Meeting passed a cordial vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. H. D. Wilbraham, and seconded by Mr. E. G. Windle, to Mr. Brock, for his work as Honorary Secretary.

Messrs. E. G. Windle and C. H. Brock were elected to attend the next U. P. A. S. I. Meeting as delegates.

4. *Act I of 1903.*—READ letters from the Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, dated 24th March, 1908, 26th March, 1908, and 18th June, 1908, and Mr. J. Harding Pascoe's letters dated 7th March, 1908, 10th March, 1908 and 26th June, 1908. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ascertain whether it would be possible to get an amendment in the Act to provide for proceedings against defaulting labourers in the event of the decease of the Maistry with whom such labourers had made contracts.

5. *Rubber Exhibition in London.*—READ and recorded U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 19/08. Mr. Windle reported that the only District in India that was exhibiting at this Exhibition was Travancore.

6. *Franco-British Exhibition,* 1908.—READ and recorded U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 21/08.

7. *Extradition from Ceylon.*—READ and recorded U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 28/08.

8. *Communications.*—READ letter from Mr. J. McKenzie, dated 5th April, 1908, complaining of undue delay of goods on the railway between Calicut and Ootacamund. Mr. Windle also cited a case of extraordinary delay in forwarding Coffee by rail from Coimbatore to Mettupalaiyam. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Traffic Manager of the South Indian Railway with reference to the same.

READ letter from Mr. A. F. Vans Agnew dated 12th June, 1908, and from Mr. W. H. Church dated 19th June, 1908, complaining of the excessive delays on the railway which have caused the Mails to be repeatedly late during the last two months. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Postmaster-General and the Traffic Manager of the South Indian Railway with reference to the same.

9. READ letter from Mr. F. Bell dated 13th June, 1908, giving notice that he would probably have to return to the old rates for labourers, namely Rs. 6-8-0 per man and Rs.4-8-0 per woman per month.

10. READ letter from the Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, dated 18th June, 1908, with reference to Passes for Tea. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to reply that, owing to the large number of small native owners, the proposed system of Tea Passes would not be possible for this District as a whole, but that it would be possible and welcomed by all Tea Planters who send their tea to Calicut through Malabar.

11. The delegates to the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting were instructed to use their discretion in dealing with all other subjects brought up at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, and Lieut. C. M. G. Plumer for the loan of the Armoury Room, terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) CHARLES H. BROCK,
Honorary Secretary, Nilgiri Planters' Association.

The Coffee Stealing Prevention Act, Mysore.

The Inspector-General of Police in Mysore reports on the working of the Coffee Stealing Prevention Act for the season ending the 31st March, 1908, that during the year under report eight cases involving twelve persons were reported, against one case with one person in the previous year. All these cases occurred in the Kadur District. The District Magistrate attributes the increase to a fairly good Coffee crop during the year under review. Of these, seven cases with eleven persons ended in conviction and one case with one person was pending trial before the Magistrate at the close of the year. There were no cases reported in the Hassan District, and this is attributed to greater vigilance on the part of the Police.

The total amount of fines realized during the year was Rs.72, against *nil* in the preceding year.

Nineteen cases with thirty-three persons were dealt with during the year, against five cases with four persons. Of these, six cases ended in conviction, one in acquittal, one was struck off on B form, six were pending before Magistrates (two on A and four on B forms) and five with Police.

Three of the four cases pending at the close of the past year were struck off on B form during the year under review.

The services of six constables (four in Hassan and two in Kadur) were lent to Planters during the picking season.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

The following are extracts from an Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee, held on the 19th May, 1908.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association, (London).—A letter of 1st May from the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, London, which had been circulated, was now brought up for final consideration and disposal. The principal subjects dealt with in it were as follows:—

Exports of Tea from Northern India to Ceylon.—Sir James Buckingham referred to a matter that has been before the General Committee in connection with the exports of tea from Northern India to Ceylon; these have recently increased very considerably and in 1907 amounted to over six million lbs., and the Committee have been endeavouring to ascertain how these are treated on re-exportation from Ceylon—whether as Indian or Ceylon exports. With this in view they asked the Collector of Customs, Colombo, whether he could supply them with monthly statements showing the quantities of Indian tea transhipped at that port, as it is thought that a very small proportion of these teas are consumed in Ceylon. The Committee were informed by the Collector that a monthly return would not give the weight of the teas transhipped, as this weight was not recorded in Colombo, and that merely a note of the number of packages was kept; but they asked him in reply to favour them with these monthly statements as they thought that even the number of packages alone would give an indication of the quantity transhipped; and in his letter of the 1st May Sir James Buckingham suggested that the same estimated average might be taken for these teas as that taken by the London Tea Brokers' Association for London—106 lbs. for chests and 60 lbs. for half-chests. The Collector of Customs has, however, now replied that although a statement might be furnished as regards teas deposited for transhipment in Customs premises, particulars could not be given for teas transhipped direct from vessel to vessel as some firms manifest all cargo as "merchandise" or "packages" and tranship them as such in their applications.

Although the Committee anticipated that, as a result of the new direct services that have been arranged between Calcutta and Vladivostock the quantities of tea requiring to be transhipped at Colombo will probably not be very great in the future, it was agreed that it would be useful to have a monthly statement of these if possible, and after discussion they decided to communicate with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and ask them whether they could give any assistance in the matter. It was also arranged to apply to the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, to see if he could supply the Association with the information required.*

Anti-Tea-Duty League.—With a letter of 1st May the Secretary of the Anti-Tea-Duty League has sent out a copy of the memorial forwarded by the League to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer: the letter was to be acknowledged.

The result of the Budget was discussed by the Committee, and the suggestion was made that although it had not succeeded in obtaining a reduction of the Tea Duty this year, the Anti-Tea-Duty League should not abandon its efforts, but continue the agitation for a decrease in the duty.

* At a meeting held on the 16th June it was stated that the Collector had replied that an effort would be made to get shippers who declare simply for Ceylon to give the final destination more specifically. The Committee now seek to get a declaration of description and quantity made a condition of transhipment at Colombo.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Planting Products in Ceylon Botanic Gardens.

The following are extracts from the Administration Report, 1907, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, by Dr. J. C. Willis, F. L. S., the Director:—

Report of the Government Entomologist.

Of tea pests, the "Shot-hole Borer" (*Xyleborus fornicatus*) still remains of chief importance. Careful examination of affected estates in several Districts has convinced me that the vigorous growth induced by the shade of the Dadap tree (*Erythrina lithosperma*) constitutes a real check upon the increase of the pest. Experiments are now in progress to ascertain whether a temporary dense shade of this nature will afford complete protection for any length of time.

Of direct methods of treatment against this pest, the most promising is that invented by Mr. Tyler, of Gampola, who has adopted the plan of subjecting the bare bushes, immediately after pruning, to a mild heat by means of torches composed of dried Grevillea leaves. I have examined a field under this treatment, and found that more than 90 per cent. of the insects were killed in their tunnels without any permanent injury to the bushes. This plan is, however, successful only in cases where the borer is confined to the branches of the plant, which is fortunately the more common form of attack. It is noticeable that in some districts the main stem of the plant is infested almost from the first; but usually the stem remains untouched until the branches are so badly infested that there is no room for further occupation. On sloping land the same result might be obtained in a more economical manner by spreading a thin layer of dry grass along the lines of trees and firing it from below. The grass should be distributed in such a manner as to supply just sufficient fuel to produce the requisite heat.

This pest is indirectly responsible for the invasion of the tea bushes by white ants. Termites are particularly attracted by wood that is permeated by the mycelium of any fungus. The tunnels of the "Shot-hole Borer" give access to the spores of certain fungi which flourish in the surrounding tissues, producing the claret-coloured stain so commonly seen in infested branches. The Termites follow this fungus and eat out the diseased parts. Water collects in the resulting cavities, and other fungi carry on the decay, only to be followed by fresh attacks of white ants. In this manner the older branches sometimes become reduced to a mere shell. Cankered branches are affected in a similar manner. The depredations of white ants may be almost completely prevented by trimming off all dead or diseased parts, at the time of pruning, and painting the exposed surface of the wood with coal tar.

There is another species of Termite (*Calotermis militaris*) that invades sound, healthy trees. The mode of attack is so insidious that the damage is often complete before there are any external signs of injury to the plant. The insects work entirely in concealment, penetrating the roots below the surface of the ground and gradually consuming all the heartwood of the stem and larger branches. The living outer tissues are carefully left intact, and the bush continues to carry on its usual functions until some chance blow snaps it off. It is then seen that the framework of the bush has been reduced to a mere shell consisting of little more than the bark and a thin layer of sapwood, the heartwood being replaced by earthy matter. It is surprising to find what little effect is produced upon the health of the tree by such extensive internal injury. But such bushes will not stand pruning.

Even if the framework is not broken up in the process, the opening up of the large cavities induces rapid decay through infection by fungi. Careful examinations of such plants has shown that each colony of the Termites is self-contained, and extends its depredations only when that tree is fully occupied.

Though no free eggs were observed, nor specialized females, such as exist in the nests of the mound-building Termites, certain of the individuals of a darker colour were found to be fertile females and to curtain ova. It appears, therefore, that the life history of this species is very distinct from that of the common mound-building Termites. It has hitherto been supposed that the inhabitants of an infested tree were off-shoots from some central establishment where breeding operations were carried on. But it is now evident, that in this case, no separate nest exists. The complete life cycle of the insect is passed within the stem of the tree. Attempts were made to kill the insects *in situ* by means of a special fumigating apparatus that has been employed most successfully against the mound-building Termites. But it was found that the cavities had been so carefully blocked with earth that it was impossible to drive the fumes through the galleries. The only sure means of eradicating the pest and preventing it from spreading to surrounding trees is by digging out the whole plant, roots and all, and burning it in the excavation made by its removal. In cases of recent infection, when such are discovered in time, it may be possible to save some of the plants by collar pruning. Some dilute phenol (or Jeyes' fluid) should be poured into the central cavity, which must then be plugged with clay.

Tea tortrix has not been so virulent in Maskeliya, the district in which it has more particularly attracted attention during the previous three or four years. There have been a few small outbreaks of the pest in other districts, but it is hoped that this plague has past its climax, and is being checked by natural causes.

Helopeltis has given some trouble in the Kelani Valley this year.

Many minor tea pests have been recorded in the pages of the *Tropical Agriculturist.*

Indirect injury to plants through the agency of the mound-building Termites has led to further attention being paid to the extermination of these pests. It was hoped, at one time, that we had found a remedy in the employment of carbon bisulphide. But the difficulty of obtaining this liquid, and its dangerous nature, proved a bar to its general use.

I am now pleased to be able to describe a simpler process that has proved to be equally efficacious. In my Annual Report for 1906 I made brief mention of a machine that had been brought to my notice by the Government Entomologist of Natal. During the present year I have tested this machine (which is put on the market under the name of the "Universal" Ant Killer) upon various kinds of mound-building Termites, with the most complete success. It is equally efficacious in destroying the nests of the truants. The machine consists of a small charcoal furnace in connection with an air pump. Some glowing charcoal is placed in the furnace; a spoonful of a mixture composed of sulphur and white arsenic is thrown on to the charcoal and the lid firmly clamped into position. A flexible nozzle is pushed into the main entrance of the nest, and all supplementary holes are plugged with earth. The pump is then worked, and drives the vapour into the nests, forcing it through the ramifications of the galleries. The thoroughness of the work is shown by the little jets of smoke that arises from crevices and unsuspected openings for several yards around the main entrance. After a few minutes of vigorous pumping, the nozzle may be withdrawn and the hole plugged with clay. The nest should then remain undisturbed for a week, when the mound may be levelled. In some few cases there have been feeble signs of renewed activity, when a second application has completed the work of destruction; but this has seldom been necessary. The machine is at present obtainable only from the Natal agents (Messrs. P. Henwood, Son, Soutter & Co., of Durban). A local agency would be a great convenience.

Rubber still remains free from any serious insect pest, and there is good reason to believe that a healthy plant, with unimpaired laticiferous system, is practically self-protected from serious attack.

An exception must be made for root-feeding insects. Cockchafer grub has certainly been the cause of many vacancies in young clearings of Hevea rubber. The chief offender appears to be the large Patana Cockchafer (*Lepidiota pinguis*). Figures of the grub and adult beetle are shown in the *Tropical Agriculturist* of October 1905, page 520. The larvæ of the Cockchafers are fat, fleshy grubs of a grayish white or yellowish white colour with reddish heads. The body is curved into a U shape. The eggs are deposited in the soil, and the young grubs work their way to the roots of the nearest plant, feeding first upon the tender rootlets, and, as they increase in size, attacking the larger roots. I have seen young plants of Hevea in which the whole root system, including the tap-root, has been eaten away. The plant then dies and is soon demolished by white ants.

The patent mixture introduced by the Strawson Company under the name of "Vaporite," is very effective in killing Cockchafer grub and other subterranean pests. It may be either forked into the soil or dibbled in around the plants, though care should be taken to prevent the mixture from coming into too close contact with the tender roots. It may also be employed against black grub in vegetable gardens, in which case it should be mixed with the soil and left for a few days before the plants are set out. It will be found equally useful as a preventive of gall-worm on the roots of plants. Nitrate of soda is another valuable application against Cockchafer grub, and has the additional advantage of being itself a fertilizer. Unfortunately, the damage done by these insects is often complete before the cause is suspected. A plant will live for several days after its taproot has been destroyed, and only gradually sheds its leaves and droops. No treatment of any kind will be of avail to save such plants. But a few dead plants may give warning of the presence of the pest in the field in time to save the remainder

From time to time specimens of a Longicorn Beetle (*Macrotypa vevrrucicollis*) have been submitted, with reports of injury to the bark of young *Hevea* trees. Examination has proved, in every case, that such plants have been previously attacked by root fungus. I have experimented with these beetles upon healthy rubber plants and have found that they will starve sooner than attack the bark while it is protected by its natural flow of latex. But as soon as the bark dries up, from any cause, it will readily be eaten by them.

Supposed injury by white ants is similarly attributable to the presence of parasitic fungi. We have fortunately no species in Ceylon with the destructive habits of the "Gestroi" ant of the Federated Malay States.

"Black Bug" (*Lecanium nigrum*) is sometimes noticeable on the stems and leaf stalks of young rubber plants, but seldom call for any special treatment.

The "Tussar Silkworm" (*Antheræa paphia*) and a "Caseworm" (*Clania crameri*) have been observed feeding upon the older leaves.

The harmless dragon-fly has even been accused of injuring the tops of young rubber plants. They are said to perch on the ends of the stumps and suck the sap. Dragon-flies are purely insectivorous, and, as such, are of considerable benefit to Planters. They merely use the tops of the rubber plants as a perch from which to pounce upon any passing insect.

A few pests of camphor have been reported during the year.

Mice were said to be digging up and devouring the seed in a nursery. Fine wire netting would prevent this trouble.

The caterpillars of a butterfly (*Papilie clytia*) and of the large "Atlas Moth" (*Attacus atlas*) feed upon the foliage.

Cockchafer grubs occasionally attack the roots.

"Red Spider" (*Tetranychus bioculatus*) affects the leaves in dry weather, but is readily checked by the application of sulphur.

The small Scolytid boring beetle mentioned in my last Report has not caused any serious trouble to camphor planters. It is sufficiently held in check by the periodic pruning of the branches for distillation.

Report of the Government Mycologist.

The Department continues to furnish information to Planters in Southern India, Burma, &c. While we are at all times ready to do this, it is questionable whether specimens of diseased plants should be allowed free access to the country. Consignments of plants are now fumigated on entry, but this is of no avail against fungi. At present fungous diseases are met by prohibition of the importation of particular plants, *e. g.*, pepper from India and cacao from Surinam. It has been proposed to include palmyra products under this prohibition in view of the palmyra disease in India: the import appears to be small, but the suggestion certainly deserves attention.

Hevea Brasiliensis.

"*Die Back.*"—Several cases of this have been reported. It should be dealt with promptly, as the disease will be a serious one if it attacks older trees. One such case has already occurred. The green shoot turns black or dark brown usually about the middle of its length, and dies back to the older part of the stem or branch. The disease sometimes begins on the leaf stalk, and the stem is infected when the leaf collapses and comes in contact with it. This disease must not be confused with the common superficial black fungus, which lives on the secretion from the nectaries at the base of the leaf stalk of *Hevea*; the latter merely forms a black stain on the outside of the stem.

Root Disease.—A root disease caused by *Sphærostilbe repens*, B & Br., has been recorded three times In one instance it killed three trees, about twenty-five years old, but these were planted in front of a set of cooly lines, where their roots were constantly being damaged. The storage of firewood near these trees no doubt introduced the fungus. This fungus was found by Thwaites thirty years ago on jack, but there is no record that it was parasitic. It was gathered in 1906, saprophitic on logs of Dadap, and parasitic on the rhizome of arrowroot. Owing to its peculiar mycelium it was carefully examined in 1906, and was therefore readily identified when found on *Hevea* There is no doubt that in the case of arrowroot it began saprophytically on dead wood, etc., and spread to the rhizome by means of its rhizomorphs; the same is probably true of *Hevea* also. The mycelium forms red cords between the wood and the cortex, especially at the collar, and these subsequently coalesce into a red sheet. The first form of fructification appears at the collar as a dense cluster of small red stalks with white heads, like a number of red pins. The wood of the affected roots is deep blue.

"*Canker*"—Most of the cases sent in as "canker" have been instances of the formation of rough bark which scales off in large patches. From the structure of the bark of *Hevea*, it would appear that this is a normal phenomenon, *i. e.*, that the older bark, as in the case of jack, cracks into patches, which are easily detached. When the trees are tapped, this occurs earlier than on untapped trees, and in some districts these scales are always present on the renewed bark. A similar scaling off occurs at the edge of the tapping cut. There is always a layer of lacitiferous bark beneath these scales; whereas when the bark is killed by disease it dies right down to the wood. The explanation of such cases as this can only be furnished by a complete investigation into the structure and physiology of *normal Hevea*; they are not necessarily pathological. All our cultivated plants should be studied in the same way. At present very little is known about any of them, and it is left to the Pathologist to find out what is the normal structure, &c., when he is called upon to investigate their diseases.

As several samples of *Hevea* seed were sent in for report, a series of germination tests was carried out. Incidentally, this afforded an explanation of the curved and knotted stems sometimes found in nurseries. An account of this will be published later.

Tea.

A Circular on *Massaria theicola*, a stem disease of tea, has been published.

The "low-country" tea root disease has been found to be caused by a species of Ustulina, which Berkeley identified as *Ustulina vulgaris*. There is some doubt whether this identification is correct. This disease is not confined

to the low-country as was previously supposed; it occurs in Dolosbage at an elevation of 3,500 feet. In one case it began on *Grevillea* stumps, and spread to the roots of the tea wherever these were in contact with the *Grevillea* roots. As these Grevilleas were not more than six inches in diameter, it should have been easy to uproot them instead of felling and leaving the stumps as centres of disease. An article on this and other tea root diseases was published in the *Tropical Agriculturist.*

Report of the Curator, Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya.

EXPERIMENT PLOTS.

Coffee.—The "Sierra Leone Upland Coffee" (*Coffea stenophylla*) continues to flourish, the slender trees now reaching a height of about 22 feet. It yields a heavy crop (for the size of the tree) of small black berries, and shows but little effect of the Hemileia fungus disease. Of all the varieties and species of coffee now introduced and grown here, perhaps the most promising, judging by productiveness and healthy vigour of the plant, is the Liberian Arabica hybrid. The seed from this has been sewn, so that plants may be supplied in course of time to applicants. The new "Congo Coffee" (*Coffea robusta*) does not, by its behaviour here has yet justify an extension of its cultivation. It bears large, handsome leaves, but at best yields only a very light crop of small berries. I am informed, however, that in Java this is considered a productive kind of coffee, but that its vitality is exhausted after the second or third crop.

Lagos Rubber (*Funtumia elastica*).—Continued cultivation of this confirms the unsuitability of the tree to Ceylon, owing to the regular and severe attack of a plague of an indigenous caterpillar, which not only completely defoliates the trees, but even attacks the tender shoots. The onslaught is watched for here and checked by a liberal spraying of an arsenical compound.

Madagascar Rubber (*Mascarenhasia elastica*).—The six trees of this are in a healthy and thriving condition, and this year yielded a few fruits, the seed from which has been carefully sewn. The seeds being furnished with a tuft of silky hairs by means of which they float in the air and are thus scattered about, it is necessary to tie a string round the bifurcate pods when approaching maturity, in order to secure the seed. The trees here yield rather a thick latex which seems to contain rubber of good quality.

Experiment Station, Peradeniya.

Tea.—The tea was plucked anyhow, without any regard to the general rules which are supposed to be observed, and the young supplies were being checked in consequence. The excuse was of course "the cattle did it." Proper supervision in the course of a few weeks altered that, and the tea has very much improved in appearance, though it is by no means of a uniform jât. In all the plots it is of a very mixed variety. The nursery where the supplies are grown, has, for some unaccountable reason, been established on the most wretched and poorest kind of soil, and the supplies I found were torn out of the ground and planted in the crudest manner, with the result, which might have been expected, that 50 per cent. died every time. All this has been since rectified.

Cocoa.—This crop has given a very good return under anything but favourable conditions, principally because the soil is good and the trees have responded to the application of fertilizers.

One acre of Manicoba rubber has been planted. The camphor plot supplied where necessary; this has not made very much growth. The Pará and Castilloa plots are growing, but will not be experimented with for some time; the growth is good. The coffee plot is healthy; very little disease has been noticed.

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

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The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

There are certain subjects now under the consideration of the Association which must be treated as reserved for discussion at the Annual Meeting this month. For example, there is nothing that can be written about the Popularization of Coffee scheme, or the scheme for the employment of a Scientific Officer. In respect to these and various other matters comment must be reserved.

Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.

A letter has been addressed by the Government of India to the Indian Tea Association communicating the result of the reference made to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in connection with the question of the import duty of 4 annas per pound levied on Indian tea in Ceylon. It shows that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been in communication with the Governor of Ceylon on the subject, and that the latter, after consulting the principal commercial bodies in Ceylon, has expressed the opinion that it is not advisable to re-open the question, at any rate for the present. The reasons which are quoted by the Government of India as having influenced the Ceylon Government in arriving at this decision are as follows :—

"That the allegation that local opinion has changed with regard to the proposal that Indian teas should be imported into Ceylon free of duty for blending purposes is not accurate. The mercantile community generally might be a gainer by the change, but their gain would be largely at the expense of the Ceylon producer of tea. The former, therefore, have no very strong objection to the change, while the latter are strongly opposed to it That the change is one which would be highly disadvantageous to the best interests of Ceylon tea, which has won a high reputation through its excellence and also by reason of the energy and enterprise of the Planting community which have combined to make its qualities widely known. Already some tea of Indian origin is exported in circumstances which lead purchasers to suppose it to be the produce of Ceylon, and the removal of the export duty would lead to this taking place on a more extended scale. Such sales, moreover, can only be made in direct competition with Ceylon teas, and it is, therefore, thought inadvisable to take action calculated to stimulate that competition. The removal of the import duty on Indian teas for blending purposes would render it difficult to withhold a similar concession in favour of China tea imported *via* Hongkong. It is true that Hongkong does not produce tea, but it is one of the most important distributing centres of tea produced in China It is a free port and also a British Colony which might well claim a share in any privilege granted by Ceylon to British India.

"In the circumstances," the letter concludes, "His Majesty's Government do not propose to take further action in the matter."

The Annual Meeting, 1908.

Preliminary Draft Agenda Paper.

1. Annual Report and Statement of Account.
2. Chairman's Address.
3. Work of the Planting Member.
4. Duties—
   (*a*) British Import Duty.
   (*b*) Anti-Tea Duty League.
   (*c*) Ceylon Import Duty on Tea.
   (*d*) Import Duties on Seeds of Economic Products
5. Finance.
6. Coffee—
   (*a*) Markets (including Popularization Scheme).
   (*b*) Adulteration.
   (*c*) Quality and Curing.
   (*d*) Analyses.
   (*e*) London Quotations in the Daily Papers.
7. Tea—
   (*a*) Markets.
   (*b*) Cess.
8. Legislation—
   (*a*) Madras Planters' Labour Act.
   (*b*) *In re* Fertilisers.
9. Agricultural Matters—
   (*a*) Fertilisers.
   (*b*) Scientific Officer.
   (*c*) Products.
   (*d*) Cultivation.
   (*e*) Insect Pests.
10. Remission of Assessment.
11. Roads and Communications.
12. Weights and Measures.
13. Commission on Money Orders.
14. Labour-recruiting and Emigration.
15. Enticement of Advanced Labour to Emigrate.
16. E. and A.-I. Defence Association.
17. Pepper Vine Disease.
18. Liquor Shops in the Vicinity of Estates.
19. International Rubber Exhibition.
20. *The Planters' Chronicle.*
21. Election of Office-bearers for 1908-09.

The Central Travancore Planters' Association has given notice of the following Resolution:—

> "That the Central Travancore Planters' Association propose that the Director-General in India has his attention called to the very inconvenient new form at Telegraphic offices and request that orders shall be issued instructing Postmasters in charge to write on receipts the names of places to which the telegram has been despatched."

Labour-recruiting for Ceylon.

Attention may be called to certain comments in Colombo papers on remarks made at a recent meeting of the Wynaad Planters' Association concerning the methods adopted by recruiters of Indian labourers for Ceylon estates.

The *Ceylon Observer* points out "that it is the Sub-Agencies, not the Central Agency, that is complained about"; and then remarks:—

Mr. Rowsell will doubtless personally investigate the matter as soon as well enough. Confirming his telegraphic reply to our enquiry of yesterday

Mr. H. A. Beachcroft, Chairman of the Ceylon Planters' Association, writes:—"No news of any such complaint has reached either Mr. Wardrop or myself; and I trust it will turn out that there is no foundation for the Madras telegram. I am absolutely certain that Mr. Rowsell would not knowingly allow the Agency to be used for any such dealings."

The *Times of Ceylon* says:—"We have previously observed complaints in S. India against F. M. S. recruiters, but now the Wynaad Planters make formal and sweeping complaints against recruiters for Ceylon estates. However little the results of their recruiting are perceptible in Ceylon, the Wynaad Association is addressing all the other districts in South India to ensure concerted action. The efforts now being made to recruit are possibly greater than is understood in this country, and the services of those recruiters who have been guilty of excess of zeal, or worse, must be dispensed with. They are first entitled to a fair hearing, and, of course, generalizations must give way to actual instances before any punishment of that sort can be imposed. Meanwhile Mr. Rowsell's Agency will doubtless address all its sub-agents, instructing them to thoroughly warn recruiters as to the lines within which they must keep."

An Insecticide.

Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co., of Madras, have sent the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., sample drums (each 4 gallons) of a special oil intended to be used together with soap to form an oil emulsion for spraying tea and other plants affected by blight. It is stated that the use of this emulsion has met with considerable success in Northern India. A crude emulsion as an insecticide has received the approval and recommendation of Mr. Maxwell Lefroy, the Government Entomologist, and this particular emulsion is easily made; 14½ gallons of undiluted emulsion will yield 150 gallons of diluted emulsion, which is said to be sufficient for an acre.

The Emulsion is prepared as follows: –

"Boil one to two pounds of soft soap, yellow bar soap or the better class of country soap with one gallon of water till thoroughly dissolved. To this when still almost boiling two gallons of the special B. O. C. oil are added slowly, the whole being thoroughly mixed by energetic stirring. The mixture will then form a creamy mass from which the oil should not separate in appreciable quantity. The mixture is allowed to cool and is then made up to thirty gallons with water which after thorough mixing can be applied as desired. The spraying is carried out soon after pruning, about 150 gallons of diluted emulsion being used per acre."

Rubber in Travancore and Cochin.

A summary of statistics relating to the production of Rubber in Travancore and Cochin is given below:—

Age.	Mundakayam.	Peermade.	N. Trav.	S. Trav.	Cochin.
6 years and over.	...	1½	...	...	...
5 " "	...	...	230	12	...
4 " "	226	...	200	245	...
3 " "	752	...	78	1,076	47
2 " "	2,280	199	436	1,573	968
1 " "	2,482	262	424	1,181	733
1908 planting.	1,894	...	1,181	694	200
Total under Rubber ...	7,634	462½	2,549	4,781	1,948
Tea with Rubber	...	...	...	1,603	..
Reserve ...	4,569	...	1,805	7,304	200
Total Acres...	12,203	462½	4,354	13,688	2,148

The Grand Total is 32,855½ acres.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Kanan Devan Planters' Association.

Minutes of an Annual General Meeting held at Munaar Club, on Saturday, 13th June, 1908, at 2 p. m.

Present:—Messrs. A. F. MARTIN (*Chairman*), A. J. GWYNNE, J. M. BRIDGMAN, A. YATES, M. C. KOECHLIN, J. C. SWAYNE, A. W. JOHN, E. E. WILLIAMS, A. J. IMRAY, and H. L. PINCHES (*Honorary Secretary*).

Honorary Secretary's Report and Accounts.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have no subject of very great importance to report on this year. Further improvements have been made on the Boday Mettu Ghat Road, the spending of the upkeep grant of Rs.750 having been intrusted to Mr. H. M. Knight, who took a great deal of trouble over the work. The top portion only is in bad order and this will very shortly be taken in hand.

Government still refuse to bridge the Theni river in spite of the best efforts of the U. P. A. S. I.

The Central Travancore Association passed a resolution at their last General Meeting to the effect that we should be asked to join them in the drawing up and sending of a combined petition to the Government of Madras, or

If we would be willing to send a representative to form a joint deputation to wait on the Government of Madras with a view to obtaining the sanction of the construction of the bridge. These proposals will come up for discussion to-day.

MEDICAL GRANTS.

Under instruction from your Committee, I have sent in an application for a maximum grant of one hundred Sircar rupees per mensem for the Sevenmalai Dispensary.

CROP.

The output of made Tea continues to increase, the figure for the year under review being 6,462,763 lbs., or 524 lbs. per acre, against 5,757,358 lbs., or 464 lbs. per acre, for the previous year.

The accounts, which have been audited by Mr. Bell, are placed on the table. They show a credit balance of Rs 306-3-7. Our expenditure for the year is Rs.1,874-7-10, and our income Rs.2,093-5-2. I now beg to place my resignation in your hands.

Mr. Imray proposed that the report and accounts be adopted; seconded by Mr. Koechlin and carried.

THENI BRIDGE.

READ letter from the Central Travancore Planters' Association in which it was suggested that the C. T. P. A. and K. D. P. A should send to Government either a joint petition or a deputation with a view to obtain the Theni Bridge.

Mr. Martin proposed: "That this Association agrees to the suggestion of the Central Travancore Planters' Association to send a joint deputation to the Madras Government about the required Theni Bridge, if it proves to be necessary after a reply is received from the President of the Madura District Board, who has recently been addressed on the subject."

Seconded by Mr. E. E. Williams and carried unanimously.

The following were elected office-bearers for the current year.

Mr. A. H. SHARP, *Chairman.*
„ A. J. WRIGHT, *Honorary Secretary.*
„ E. E. WILLIAMS, }
„ A. J. IMRAY, } *Committee.*
„ A. F MARTIN, }
„ E. E. WILLIAMS, *Bangalore Delegate*

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the meeting terminated.

(Signed) HERBERT L. PINCHES, for *Honorary Secretary.*

Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association.

Minutes of Third Quarterly General Meeting of this Association held at Kadamankulam Bungalow, on 4th July, 1908, at the kind invitation of R. Harley, Esq.

Present:—Messrs. J. A. RICHARDSON (*Chairman & Secretary*), H. D. DEANE, J. J. MURPHY, A. W. L. VERNEDE (*Superintendent, Cardamom Hills*), P. MADDEN, A. E. VERNEDE, F. E. VERNEDE, R. HARLEY, C. W. VERNEDE, K. JOHN (*Excise Circle Officer*), J. DRUMMOND DEANE and W. O. FULLER *by proxy.*

Correspondence.

1. READ letter from Mrs. Bannatine on behalf of the late Mr. Grey's family thanking the Association for their letter of sympathy.

2. *Kanjirapally Bridge.*—READ the Executive Engineer's letter of 20th May, stating that the Bridge was again open for traffic.

READ the Secretary's letter of 24th June, to the Executive Engineer, pointing out that though the main span over the river had been supported, a small span of about 15 feet on the eastern bank had been left untouched and was a source of great danger.

3. *Scientific Officer.*—READ various correspondence from the U. P. A. on this matter. The Secretary was instructed to refer the U.P.A. to the Association's reply of 28th April, in which they asked for further particulars as to what extent the Scientific Officer's services would be available for this District.

4. READ letter from Chief Secretary to Government stating that the Engineer's Bungalow at Peermade would be converted into a Travellers' Bungalow, and that a Waiting-room at the Kutcherry had been sanctioned. The Secretary was instructed to thank Government and ask at what date the Bungalow would be available as a Rest House.

5. *Travellers' Bungalow at Poncunnam.*—READ the Chief Engineer's letter *re* above sympathising with the Association's request, but regretting his inability to do anything in the matter, unless a requisition came from Government. The Secretary was instructed to address Government on the matter, forwarding a copy of the Chief Engineer's letter.

6. *Rates of Cart Hire.*—READ letter from Mr. A. W. L. Vernede, Superintendent of the Cardamon Hills, *re* above. It was pointed out to Mr. Vernede, who was present, that there was no necessity to raise the rates of cart hire for the transport of ordinary produce and stores. When carts are engaged for passenger traffic and the transport of personal baggage it is usual to pay higher rates.

Liquor Shops near Estates.—Mr. K. John, Excise Circle Officer, stated that the liquor shop on the Boyce Estate had no license and would be stopped and that he would inquire into the matter of the liquor shop near Kokayar.

United Planters' Association Circulars.—Various letters and Circulars were read.

International Rubber Exhibition.—The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Quilon were laid before the Meeting. READ letter from Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., stating that they proposed shipping the Exhibits by the direct Clan steamer on the 10th instant. Any Exhibits not received by them in time for that will have to be sent by Parcel Post.

The Chairman reported that up to date he had received subscriptions to the amount of Rs.1,317-8-0 out of a total of Rs.2,251-1-0 due if all subscribe at the rate of 2 annas per acre. He regretted to state that one Company in Mundakayam had refused to subscribe to the scheme, subsequent to the last Meeting when a 4-anna cess was unanimously agreed to. The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. H. Drummond Deane: "That it is regrettable

that certain Companies have vetoed the assent given by their Managing Superintendents to the scheme for raising funds for the Rubber Exhibition and would wish it put on record that in the opinion of the Association that Managing Superintendents of Estates should be considered to have full representative powers on behalf of the Companies or Proprietors they represent as regards the Association."

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy.—*Carried.*

The Chairman stated that it might be necessary to call up another anna per acre to meet the expenses of the Exhibit.

Kottayam Travellers' Bungalow.—The Secretary was instructed to write to the Executive Engineer pointing out the necessity of a more competent Butler being put in charge of the Bungalow.

Delegate to the United Planters' Association Meeting.—Mr. Richardson was unanimously appointed to represent the Association at the coming Meeting of the U. P. A. in August.

Removal of Royal Trees from Rubber Estates.—The Chairman reported that he had an interview when in Trivandrum with the Dewan, who was very willing to meet the Association in their requests as regards this matter. At the Dewan's suggestion a Meeting was arranged with Mr. Bourdillon at Quilon, at which Mr. J. Stewart, Chairman of the South Travancore Planters' Association, Mr. J B. Cook, Secretary, and Mr D. G. Cameron were also present. The matter was fully discussed, and the following suggestions were put to Mr. Bourdillon and subsequently embodied in a letter asking Government to sanction them:—

"1*st.*—That when the timber had been measured and taken over by the Proprietors of the Estate it was not necessary for him to fell the Royal trees in his reserve land within any time limit and that any increase in the value due to the growth of such trees left standing shall not be claimed by Government. 2*nd.*—That in the event of the seigniorage on any one Estate amounting to over Rs.1,000 the payment be spread over a period so that it shall not exceed Rs.1,000 in any one year. 3*rd.*—That any Planter not wishing to take over the Royal trees on his Estate will have the option of notifying Government and ask them to remove such trees before planting has been done. Felling is generally started in December and January and planting rarely begun before June, so that at least six months notice can be given."

No reply has yet been received from Government.

Peermade Jurisdiction Boundary.—The Chairman stated that he had also discussed this matter with the Dewan, who was anxious that an immediate settlement should be made in this matter, which has been the cause of a great deal of trouble and expense to several members of the Association. Mr. Vernede, who was present at the meeting, suggested the following boundary:—From the junction of the eastern boundary of the Meenachil Taluk with the northern boundary of the Changanacherry Taluk following the Meenachil boundary in a southerly course to where the Meenachil river leaves it thence by the river to the K. K. Road at the Mundakayam bridge, thence following up the river to where the Athambu Thodu flows in thence along the main ridge to Komboocooty and the Chenampara Elephant Pits and along the Rani Reserve to the Chenganore Taluk boundary. This line, although it forms a good natural boundary, would exclude the following Estates, Yendaar, Kutikal, Vellanadie and Mundakayam Estates, amounting to close on 2,000 acres, and a block of unopened land belonging to Kadamankulam.

These Estates are all in close proximity to the Estates which will be included in the above boundaries. The Secretary was instructed to approach Government and ask them either as a special case to grant the Cardamom Hills Magistrates' jurisdiction over the abovenamed Estates or to enlarge the boundary on the north of the K. K. Road to the main ridge forming the water shed of the Palagar river, which will include Yendaar and Kutikal Estates, the two largest of the outlying properties.

Motor Traction between Kottayam and Mundakayam.—The Chairman stated that he had seen Mr. John Zachariah, who was prepared to start two Motors to carry produce between Kottayam and Mundakayam. The scheme was of more importance to the Peermade Association but deserved the general support of all Planters both in Peermade and Mundakayam.

TELEGRAM RECEIPTS.

Mr. Deane's Resolution.—"That the Postmaster-General in India has his attention called to the very inconvenient new form of telegraph receipt issued at Mofussil telegraph offices, and request that orders shall be issued instructing Postmasters in charge of Mofussil telegraph stations to write on the receipt the name of the place to which the telegram has been despatched."

Seconded by Mr. Madden.—*Carried.*

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Director-General of Telegraphs enclosing a copy of Mr. Deane's Resolution.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AT MUNDAKAYAM.

Mr. Madden's Resolution.—"That His Highness' Government be asked to provide accommodation at the Mundakayam Dispensary, where serious cases can be taken in and attended to by the Medical Officer."

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy.

The Secretary was instructed to address Government on the matter, pointing out the necessity of some accommodation at Mundakayam Dispensary for serious cases.

Mr. Murphy proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. A. W. L. Vernede, Superintendent of the Cardamon Hills, for attending the Meeting, and for his help regarding the Jurisdiction Boundary question.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting terminated.

J. A. RICHARDSON,
Chairman and Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held at Meppadi Club, 8th July, 1908.

Present:—The Hon'ble MR. C. E. ABBOTT, MESSRS. H. ATZENWILER, D. MACKENZIE, W. MACKINLAY, W. R. M. MACKENZIE, S. H. POWELL (Jnr.), A. TROLLOPE, G. H. WELCHMAN and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

In the Chair.—Mr. H. Atzenwiler.

Proceedings of the last Meeting were confirmed.

General Correspondence read and approved.

1373. *Crimping of Advanced Labour by Ceylon.*—Proposed by Mr. D. Mackenzie, and seconded by Mr. A. Trollope:

"That the Association views with alarm the action of the recruiting Agencies in Coimbatore, whereby indentured coolies are being induced to break their contracts and enlist for Ceylon, and that the Planting Member be asked to bring the matter before the United Planters' Association and urge them to take such steps as may be necessary to safeguard the interests of the Southern Indian planting community."—*Carried unanimously.* The Honorary Secretary was instructed to obtain as full particulars as possible and to address all other District Associations in Southern India with a view to insuring concerted action.

1374 *United Planters' Association.*—The Honorary Secretary was elected as delegate to attend the Annual Meeting.

1375. *Liquor Shops in vicinity of Estates.*—The shop removed in 1903 owing to serious disturbance on the Arrapetta Estate has been brought back to the

same site within 300 yards of the cooly lines. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the Collector on the matter, and, if necessary, bring it to notice of the United Planters' Association.

1376. *Roads. No.* 38 *Chundale-Sholadi.*—The first section, Chundale to Meppadi, is very much worn into holes and, although a large amount of metal has been collected, it wants spreading at once. On the second section, Meppadi to Sholadi, there appears to be no metal and no work done, except a few miles of drains have been cleared, since 1st April, and in many places jungle is much overgrowing the road. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the President of the District Board and at the same time to call attention to the fact that many of the sign-boards at road junctions are out of repair.

1377. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. S. I. Circulars, Nos. 31 to 36.
I. T. A. Circular, Nos. 8 to 9 and 27.
Vijiam & Co.'s Scheme, Tea Sales.
Tea Statistics, May.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) H. ATZENWILER,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

NOTICE.--Owing to the U. P. A. Annual Meeting being held next month the NEXT MEETING of this Association will be held on FIRST WEDNESDAY IN AUGUST, the 5th proximo.

New Member.—Mr. S. K. Bousfield, proposed by Mr. Waddington and seconded by Mr. Behr, will be balloted for as a Member at the next Meeting

The Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held at Munjamullai Bungalow, on July 11th, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. D. MCARTHUR (*Chairman*), J. A. RICHARDSON, H. C. WESTAWAY, K. E. NICOLL, T. A. VERNON, A. MORGAN, A. HAMMOND, R. HARLEY, and J. S. WILKIE (*visitors*), T. C. FORBES, C. L. LACEY, T. A. KINMOND, F. E. THOMAS (*Honorary Secretary*).

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

READ letter from the Superintendent, D. P. W., Trichinopoly, *re* the use of the Gudalore Bungalow.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the Superintendent, D. P. W., Trichinopoly, to ask Government if they will build an extra room to the bungalow at Gudalore for the use of Planters, as no suitable site is available for them to build one for themselves.

Re acceleration of mails between Peermade and High Range.

READ—letter from Postmaster-General re-opening a mail line between Bodinayakanur and Uthamapalayam *via* Thevaram.

THENI BRIDGE.

READ letter from the Kanan Devan Planters' Association on this matter.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary do write to the Honorary Secretary of the Kanan Devan Planters' Association and ask him to get a reply from the President of the Madura District Board before the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting at Bangalore on August 17th, 1908; also

That the Honorary Secretary writes to the Postmaster-General drawing his attention to the delay which often occurs in delivery of mails to this District owing to the want of a Bridge over the Theni River.

READ—Letters from the Madras Government *re* Scientific Officer Scheme.

Resolved—That this Association is willing to join, provided the assessment is on an acreage basis and that the period of time be guaranteed for 5 years,

Extract from the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., letter dated 22nd June, 1908.

"Under date of the 16th instant, the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, writes:—

"I am directed to refer to my letter No. 39, dated 7th January, 1908, and to request that the Government may be informed at a very early date whether your Association will undertake to contribute for five years towards the cost of employing a Scientific Officer for the benefit of the Planting communities of Southern India or whether the undertaking is limited to three years."

INCREASE OF TAXES.

Letter from the Travancore Government was circulated to all members.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary writes to the Honorary Secretary, S. T. P. Association, sending copies of this Association letters to the Government on the subject and to advise them when this Association takes further steps in the matter.

ARRACK TAVERNS.

READ letter to the Government *re* Taverns opened at Maimallai and Periyar.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary be asked to write to Government and point out their assurance *re* the opening and giving of contracts for Taverns in the vicinity of Estates without previously giving this Association notice of their intention of doing so.

U. P. A. S. I.—READ DRAFT AGENDA OF U. P. A. S. I.

Proposed by Mr. J. A. Richardson: that the following Resolution be sent to the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. to be included in the Agenda paper of the forthcoming Meeting.

"That the Director-General in India has his attention called to the very inconvenient new form at Telegraphic offices, and request that orders shall be issued instructing Postmasters in charge to write on receipts the name of the place to which the Telegram has been despatched."

Seconded by Mr. A. Hammond—*Carried.*

Also that the following subjects be brought up:—The Theni Bridge. State of road between Veerapady and Kumli.

BANGALORE DELEGATE.

Mr. McArthur proposed "that Mr. J. A. Richardson should represent the Central Travancore Planters' Association at the Annual Meeting of the U.P.A.S. I. to be held on August the 17th, at Bangalore, and that the usual allowance of Rs.150 towards the delegate's expenses be voted."—*Carried unanimously.*

The following Resolution was proposed by W. H. C. Westaway:—"That a time limit be agreed upon for coolies leaving the District for the Coast, before they can come up again to another Estate with fresh advances as Coast coolies."

Mr. Richardson proposed an amendment to Mr. Westaway's Resolution; suggesting that certain rules regarding advances be adopted in the District; but after the discussion of Resolution and Amendment, both were withdrawn by the proposers and the following Resolution from the Chair was adopted:—"That with regard to the Resolution and Amendment brought up before the Meeting, a Committee be formed to go into the matter and to discuss the rules proposed."—*Carried unanimously.*

The following Committee were then elected:—Messrs. D. McArthur, J. A. Richardson, H. D. Deane, K. E. Nicoll and T. C. Forbes.

With reference to the above discussion the Chairman drew the attention of the Members of the Association to the Resolution brought forward in June 29th, 1899, and the amended Resolution of November 5th, 1904, proposed by Mr. H. M. Knight, seconded by Mr. D. McArthur, to amend the above Resolution by adding cooly or coolies after "moopen" in the second line.

The Resolution now reads as follows:—"That no Superintendent, writer or cangany, should take on a cangany, moopen, cooly or coolies, without first receiving a "Thundu" or discharge note from the Estate he was leaving, and which must be signed by the Superintendent thereof.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Meeting closed.

(Signed) FREDERICK E. THOMAS, *Honorary Secretary.*

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION.

Programme of Experimental Work at Heeleaka for the Season 1908.

In the Report on the Heeleaka Experimental Station for the years 1905 to 1907 a general account has been given of the various manurial and other experiments carried out there during the past three seasons. The present Report is intended to give some idea of the further work which it is hoped to carry on in the present and following years.

Manurial Experiments.—It has been pointed out in previous Reports that the economic value of such manures as superphosphate and sulphate of potash depends largely upon their residual effect, and that their comparatively high price must be counterbalanced by a corresponding maintenance of the increased yield which they produce. With a view to elucidating this point, a system of manurial rotation has been instituted, based upon the assumption that the amounts of phosphates and potash originally applied to the plots Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the bushes for at least three years, whilst nitrogen, as nitrate of soda, will be supplied annually. These four plots originally received dressings of phosphatic and potash manures in the form of superphosphate (Nos. 4 and 6—3 cwt. per acre), and basic slag (Nos. 5 and 7—5 cwt. per acre), whilst all four plots received 2 cwt. sulphate of potash. Nitrate of soda was applied at the rate of 2¼ cwt. per acre to Nos. 6 and 7, and the greatly increased yield of these two plots was obviously due to its action in combination with the phosphoric acid and potash, its absence in plots Nos. 4 and 5 producing a corresponding diminution of yield as compared with the former. These applications were repeated in the second year, but no manure was applied in the third, and it is now proposed to make use of these four plots as the starting point of a manurial rotation, in which the original dressings will be depended upon to supply phosphates and potash for the next two years, the more rapidly exhausted nitrogen being applied annually.

In previous publications stress has been laid upon the value of a proper proportion between the various ingredients of a manurial mixture, and especially as regards the amount of nitrogen, any excess of which may be regarded as injurious. In a mixture of superphosphate, sulphate of potash, and nitrate of soda, the two former may be considered as coming into action as plant foods with comparative slowness, whilst the nitrogen in the latter is already available, so that in a manure of the above composition the effective ratio of nitrogen to phosphates and potash varies as the season advances, being high at the commencement but rapidly becoming less by reason of the great solubility of the nitrates in rain water, and the inability of the soil to retain them as it does phosphoric acid and potash. Thus in supplying nitrogenous manures we have two points to consider, first, the liability to lose nitrogen in drainage water, and secondly, the difficulty of maintaining the proper proportion between the supply of this element and that of the phosphoric acid and potash; the importance of preserving this proportion throughout the year is especially great in connection with a leaf crop, the uniform quality of which has to be maintained, so far as is possible, for some six consecutive months. The adoption of the annual small dose of oilcake in preference to the triennial large one is an admission and recognition of this state of affairs, and it is now proposed to take further steps in the same direction by extending the principle of the small dose, and applying it not only to differentiate annual from triennial applications, but to modifying the method of manurial treatment throughout the season. The method depends upon the assumption that the greater success of the annual small dose of manure is principally due to the fact that the roots of the tea bush are only able to take up a limited amount of nitrate in solution during any given period of time, and that any excess present in the soil is lost by removal in drainage water. In order to avoid such loss it would then seem necessary to supply the nitrogenous manure in small doses at frequent

intervals, and this method is now being adopted in the various experimental plots receiving nitrogen, whether in the form of oilcake, animal meal, nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, or nitrate of potash. The following table shews the arrangement of the plots and the amounts of the manures applied:—

TABLE No. 1.

Plot No.	*Manure.*	*Rate per acre.*	*Number of doses.*
		cwt.	
2 ..	Ammonium Sulphate	... 2	... 2
2*a* ...	do.	... 1	... 1
3 ...	Nitrate of Soda	... 2½	... 2
3*a* ...	do.	... 1½	... 1
4 ...	do.	.. 1½	... 3
5 ...	do.	... 1½	... 3
6 ...	do.	... 1½	... 3
7 ..	do.	... 1½	... 3

In the above series Nos. 4 and 6 originally received dressings of superphosphate (3 cwt. per acre); Nos. 5 and 7 being manured with basic slag (5 cwt. per acre); all four plots received sulphate of potash (2 cwt. per acre): the object of the experiment being to determine the residual effect of these minerals in conjunction with repeated doses of nitrate of soda

In order to complete this experiment, four plots have been arranged as follows, making use of the Nos. 3 and 4 of the pruning plots which are no longer required for experimental pruning; on these plots the relative merits of the divided and of the single dose, it is hoped, will be ascertained:—

Plot No.	*Manure.*	*Per Acre.*	*Number of Application.*
3 ...	Oilcake	... 6 mds. ...	3 of 2 mds.
3*a* ...	do.	... 6 „ ...	1 „ 6 „
4 ...	Animal Meal	... 3 „ ...	3 „ 1 „
4*a* ..	do.	... 3 „ ...	1 „ 3 „

This method of application will be further tested on plot No. 20 Manurial Series, where the annual application of nitrate of potash on both halves of the plot will be sub-divided, the one receiving its dressing in two doses, the other in five doses.

Mention has been made in a previous Report of the apparently rapid action of cattle manure trenched into the soil as compared with the same manure buried with the deep hoe. In order to test this point, cattle manure has been applied on plots 17 and 18 at the rate of 200 maunds per acre, on No. 17 in trenches and on No. 8 with the deep hoe. The trenches were cut in every row and were approximately eighteen inches deep and five inches wide. The deep hoe was at the rate of twelve nolls and penetrated to an average depth of nine inches.

The amount of each constituent of these manurial applications has been arranged with no previous knowledge of the precise quantities required by the tea bush under various conditions; it is hoped, however, that the continuation of the experiments on these plots in the manner indicated above will afford valuable information as to the quantities which can be applied most economically. To investigate this matter thoroughly would involve the laying out of a large number of new plots, and it has been decided, in accordance with the opinion expressed by the local Advisory Committee, that in view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining the necessary labour to work those plots already in operation, it would be inadvisable to undertake any further extension at present. Certain plots, however, have been set out for the purpose of determining, so far as is possible, the amounts of organic

manures, such as oilcakes and animal meal, which can most economically be applied: they are arranged as follow:—

TABLE OF QUANTITATIVE EXPERIMENT ON OILCAKE AND ANIMAL MEAL

Plot	*No.*	*Manure.*	*Amount per Acre.*
1	7	Animal Meal	3 maunds.
2	7*a*	No Manure	...
3	8	Animal Meal	5 maunds.
4	8*a*	do. do.	7 ,,
5	9	Oilcake	6 ,,
6	9*a*	No Manure	...
7	10	Oilcake	10 maunds.
8	10*a*	do.	15 ,,

In will be seen that the relative amounts of cake and animal meal are in the proportion of two to one, this being in accordance with their relative nitrogen content, and also approximately with their cost.

By the kindness of Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co., I have been able to arrange for the laying-out of other experimental plots on gardens in their agency, in Assam, in Sylhet, and in the Dooars, and it is hoped that much valuable information will be obtained from these plots as to the variations in quantity of manures required by the differences of climate and soil obtaining in these widely separated Districts.

Potash Salts.—Two plots, Nos. 15 and 16, have been set aside for the purpose of determining the value of potash as an ingredient of manurial mixtures.

No. 15 has received an application of--

Superphosphate	3 cwt.
Sulphate of Potash	2 ,,
Oilcake	5 maunds.

No. 16 has been similarly treated, the potash however being omitted. It is probable that potash is an essential constituent of manurial applications on all soils with but few exceptions, the amount required varying with the composition of the soil, being less on heavy clays than on light sandy soils, and in all probability being considerably less than that which has been applied in many cases, where this manure has formed part of a mixture.

Bone Manures.—The value of bones for manurial purposes in tea culture has been a matter of considerable doubt, and the absence of reliable statistics bearing on this point has made it advisable to investigate the question. With this object in view a series of plots was laid out at Heeleaka in 1907 and kept under observation during the following season. The manures were applied as follows:—

TABLE OF BONE MANURE PLOTS.

Plot No.	*Manure.*	*Rate per acre.*
1	No Manure	...
2	¼ inch Bones	1/3 ton.
3	Bone Meal	1/3 ,,
4	Dissolved Bones	8 cwt. 86 lbs.
5	Oil-cake	4 ,, 72 ,,
6	Oil-cake	4 ,, 72 ,,
	Superphosphate	3 ,, 86 ,,

The amounts of oil-cake and superphosphate were regulated to correspond with the nitrogen and phosphate content of the bones.

Unfortunately the Tea selected for this experiment, although apparently even in character, has proved on investigation to be situated on soil of such variable composition as to render the results obtained from these plots

unreliable for comparative purposes, on the yield of leaf for one season; it is therefore proposed to continue the experiment with a view to obtaining information by observing the variation of each individual plot from year to year, noting any improvement or otherwise, as compared with the behaviour of the unmanured control plot. So far no manurial effect has been observed, which is more or less in accord with the generally received opinion as to the comparative slowness of action of bones as a manure, but it is difficult to understand why no increase of yield should have occurred on the plot treated with dissolved bones.

Green Manures.—As described in the Report on this station for 1907, the relative merits of five green manuring crops have been tested during three consecutive season (1905 to 1907). It is now intended to leave these plots untreated, in order to ascertain the residual effect of the crops grown on them. Plot No. 1, originally unmanured and No. 4 planted with *Crotolarra Striata* have now been planted with *Tephrosia Candida* (*Boga Medeloa*), which will be allowed to remain on one plot for two seasons and on the other for three, the extended use of this plant, and the remarkable results obtained by its growth, making it advisable to determine its value by careful experiment. It is proposed to utilise the remaining green manure plots as starting points for further experiments on manurial rotation.

The effect of green manures on young plants is being tested in the clearance planted out with six months old seedlings in June, 1906. *Tephrosia Candida* in particular has already produced a marked improvement in the young plants on that portion of the clearance interplanted with this bush.

In addition to the experiments described above certain problems connected with the culture of tea are now being investigated; these include a series of observations on the chemical and other changes which take place in organic matter buried in the soil, in the form of green manure, prunings, oilcake and cattle manure: the information thus obtained, it is hoped, will help to elucidate some important points in connection with the practical use of these materials, especially with reference to the depth in the soil and the time at which they may most advantageously be applied. Some data may be obtained in this way which will serve as a guide in applying nitrogenous manures throughout the growing season.

Experiments are being carried out, both in the laboratory and in the field, in connection with the use of nitro-bacterine, the bacterial culture prepared by Professor Bottomley; these are at present confined to the inoculation of Mati Kalai, and it is hoped that by the use of this method it may be possible to obtain good crops of this plant in soils which hitherto have required preliminary dressings of manure.

The routine work of the laboratory will include investigation of methods for determining the manurial requirements of tea soils, analyses of leaf with reference to variation of quality, both natural and induced, and the analyses of soils and manures.

Mycological work will include the special investigation of the fungus diseases—Thread Blight and Grey Blight, and the so-called "Copper" Blight, together with any other questions which may arise in connection with this branch of enquiry. It may be pointed out that this part of the work of the Scientific Department is seriously prejudiced by its necessary relegation to a subordinate position consequent on the pressure of other work, nor is it possible for the Chief Scientific Officer to give the time required for the working out of the problems involved; the appointment of a Botanist to the Staff of the Department would remove this difficulty and certainly enable advances to be made in our knowledge of the fungus diseases of tea, our very superficial acquaintance with which at present restricts us to merely palliative measures in dealing with them.

C. M. HUTCHINSON,
Chief Scientific Officer.

INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

The following Report has been submitted by Mr. R. BLECHYNDEN, the representative of the Indian Tea Cess Committee in the United States, upon the work done in connection with the Separate Indian Fund during the year ended 31st March, 1908:—

Indian Tea American Advertising Fund.

Report for Season 1907-1908.

I have the honour to submit a very brief report, covering the fourth season this Fund has been in operation.

2. In accordance with the instructions of the Executive Committee, I met the Committee of the Indian Tea Association, London, in July last, after submitting notes on points raised at a preliminary meeting held in June. The results were fully set forth in my letter of the 14th August, 1907.

3. It was agreed in London that, owing to the system of work followed by the Ceylon Separate Fund in the Eastern States, independent action by India in the same field would tend to bring about more or less active opposition between the two interests, and that it was therefore desirable for the Indian Separate Fund to withdraw from the Eastern States to places where no active work was being done by the Ceylon Separate Fund.

4. Before any active steps could be taken to carry out the plans agreed upon, the Executive Committee's instructions were received to await the decision of the Government of India in the matter of the continuance of the Cess; for if the Cess were to be discontinued, the work contemplated in the new area would be brought to a close, and no result would be effected by such a spasmodic effort.

5. The situation remained unchanged until the middle of February, when I received the instructions of the Executive Committee, conveyed in a letter, dated the 16th January, stating that the Cess was to be continued for another period of five years and requiring an outline plan of the methods to be pursued.

6. A tentative plan based on an expenditure of £4,000 was accordingly drawn up and submitted in my letter of the 18th February and later, in my letter of the 2nd April, made to cover a more extensive territory, when I learned that the allotted sum had been increased to £8,000.

7. A number of preliminary arrangements had to be made, printed and other material prepared and negotiations with an aggressive Jobbing House concluded before active operations could be commenced. While the initial steps here indicated were taken, actual work was not commenced within the date on which season 1907-08 terminated, the period with which this Report deals.

8. As stated in my Report for season 1906-07, one of the firms, with whom we had arrangements for pushing Indian teas during that season, was unable to carry out its share of the programme. This was probably mainly due to the sharp rise in the market tempting it to take its profits on the stocks it was carrying, and thus diverting its efforts from the more tedious plan of disposing of these teas through the retail trade. We therefore closed our account and the unexpended portion of the allocation (about $\frac{1}{5}$ths) is shewn in the accompanying accounts, being brought to the credit of income for the current season, 1908-09.

9. Pending requirements to meet active work, the remittance made on account of season 1908-1909 has been deposited at three months' notice of withdrawal, at 3 per cent. interest.

10. I beg to attach accounts to the 31st March, 1908, duly audited as usual by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co.

India and Ceylon Teas American Advertising Fund.

Report for Season 1907-08.

The following are extracts from a Report by Mr. R. BLECHYNDEN, the representative of the Indian Tea Cess Committee in the United States, upon the work done in connection with the Joint Fund during the year ended 31st March, 1908:—

The plans originally laid down towards the close of the St. Louis Exhibition, in September, 1904, have been adhered to with little change, save that the expansion of certain lines, involving larger outlay, has been met by reducing expenditure in other lines, as the funds allotted for the work remained the same as in the previous seasons. . . . .

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING.

A considerable proportion (about 54⅔% against 66⅔% last season) of the fund was expended for newspaper advertising. The system of coupling the names of grocers selling Indian and Ceylon Teas with our general advertisement in the newspapers of their towns, described fully in my last Report, was continued up to the end of September 1907. . . . .

Our advertising in the papers secured us the advantage of occasional insertions of reading matter free of charge. . . . .

SPECIAL WORK.

This department of the work has been continued and extended during the season, and I am inclined to think it is one which will give excellent results. We have been doing special work now in different cities for three seasons, and as detailed in previous Reports we covered Kansas City Mo., St. Louis Mo., Cincinnati O., Hamilton O., Dayton O., Springfield O., and Indianapolis, Ind., as well as a large number of smaller places adjacent to these cities. The work had been carried on since then on similar lines, but has developed into covering the tributary territory of a distributing centre much more systematically. . . . .

We have now two special men travelling with the salesmen of the Jobbing Houses we work through. One man covers the Home City and the other the outside places in the territory. In this way calls are made on all the trade usually visited by the Jobbing House, and they frequently open new accounts in addition.

SPECIAL TERRITORY.

I append maps of Ohio and Indiana on which are marked the places visited from Columbus, Cleveland and Fort Wayne in blue, and from Toledo in red and attach a list of these places with the population, number of grocers sold, and names, in mailing lists in each place, net, after deducting names repeated in different lists. As work was still unfinished in Fort Wayne territory when our season ended, lists of consumers were still coming in and may continue to come for some weeks yet. Four hundred and seventeen cities, towns and villages were visited during the season, with an aggregate population of 1,460,986 or at four to each household, say, 365,246 households. About 1,621 grocers bought tea and sent in mailing lists aggregating 107,070 names. If each name can be taken to represent a household of four persons, we will be able to reach with post-cards and samples about 428,280 households. The difference between these two groups of figures probably represents families reached by rural free delivery. . . . .

The systematic work described above entail as good deal of careful supervision from this office and requires constant watching; but I think the effect will be worth the trouble, and that we are laying the foundations for the future development of our interests very solidly.

By doing a territory thoroughly, in preference to selecting only large cities, as conditions forced us to do formerly, we secure the interest, not only of the house we connect with and their city salesmen, but of their entire staff of men, and as the advertising scheme is one which insures the sale of tea to grocers, the Jobbing Houses have to lay in reasonable stocks of tea and this in itself insures their pushing sales.

Post Cards.

For every pound of tea a grocer buys, he can send us the names of two customers to whom we send picture post-cards. On the address side there are directions for making India and Ceylon Tea, together with the name of the grocer from whose list the address is obtained. . . . Since the Joint Fund was started, we have used India and Ceylon cards, and have sent these as issued to the names on our lists without attempting any selection . . . In this way, the last edition of 157,000 cards has gone out to about 69,000 people who received cards of the previous issue and about 85,000 new people whose addresses we have received during the current season.

Show Cards.

The post-cards are backed and supported by show cards displayed in Grocers' Stores. The show cards are large reproductions from the photographs copied in the post-cards and are printed in the same colors . . .

Samples of Tea.

In last season's (1906-07) Report I described the system we adopted that year for sending out samples of tea through the mails, direct to those whose names had been supplied to us by grocers. The result of this experiment proved very satisfactory and this department of our work has been extended to reach all the consumers named in grocers' mailing lists.

The quantity of tea contained in the samples has been reduced to one ounce and this with the carton (card-board box) it is packed in, the electro-plated measure, muslin bag to contain these and the address tag can therefore be mailed for two cents. instead of the 4 cents. we used to pay when we gave more tea. . . . .

During the current season over 94,000 of these samples have been sent out against 17,696 last season . . . . .

General Remarks.

In the foregoing paragraphs I have confined myself strictly to the advertising aspect of our various plans, and have endeavoured to give an impersonal and clear description of these, so that the Committee may fully understand just what is being done. I have tried to make it clear that the sale of Tea to grocers is merely as an adjunct to advertising and not an end to be pursued for its own sake. A candid examination of the figures showing tea sold in connection with this scheme will, however, make it very apparent that we have unquestionably got a scheme which will sell tea in any place we select for our purpose, and beyond that will sell an unusually large quantity of tea per grocer, considering the consumption *per capita*, and the fact that each grocer carries teas from other countries in addition to those bought under this scheme. The sales made can be summarised for the twelve months: —

Columbus and some territory		150	lbs.	Grocers bought		4,195	lbs.
Cleveland	„ „	727	„	„		75,280	„
Toledo	„ „	400	„	„		26,165	„
Fort Wayne	„ „	285	„	„		17,995	„
		1,562	„			123,635	„

These figures give an average first sale of 79 lbs., to each grocer; the average grocer has about 250 customers and the average consumption of tea

in the United States is, at a rather full figure, 1·33 lbs. per head. The quantity purchased is, therefore, equivalent to three months' requirements independent of the China and Japan teas in stock. As the larger part of the year was concurrent with the great financial depression, when purchases were cut down and economies made in all directions, this record appears to me to be excellent.

I have to repeat here that the sale of tea to the retail trade, however satisfactory in itself, is but the first step towards establishing it as a permanent success. To effect this the consumer has to be reached. We cannot count upon the assistance of the grocer: hardly even upon his co-operation. It rests with us to create a demand and get the tea out of the grocer's stores into the homes of the people.

Packet Teas.

While the former policy of assisting packet teas directly has never been adopted by the Joint India and Ceylon Fund, we must still look upon firms packing India and Ceylon teas as our best allies; anything that affects them is therefore of interest to us. The season has not been a prosperous one for packet teas, as the increased cost of tea has seriously reduced their profits and they have in many instances been obliged to largely reduce their advertising expenses to meet this change in conditions. . . . . No doubt this is a passing phase and the new conditions will in due time be met by a readjustment for prices, etc.; but I consider the facts as they exist worthy of mention, as we have always counted upon packet teas as important factors and looked to them to take advantage of our work and follow it up to their own, and ultimately our, advantage.

Statistics.

At various times statements have been published in the trade papers here and copied in India and Ceylon newspapers, to the effect that there has in recent years been a great falling-off in the consumption of tea in the United States. These statements I have found were based on an inadequate knowledge of the subject and the contrasting of individual seasons one with another, without considering average results for reasonably long periods. When preparing statistics of tea importations for the information of the Executive Committee, I found extraordinary fluctuations in the figures for annual imports of all teas, not to be explained by variations in crops, rise and fall in consumption nor by other general arguments. The figures I compiled extended back for many years and were in due course submitted to the Executive Committee, and in preparing them, I found complete explanations for the points which had been obscure. Briefly, the Tea Standard Law, the placing a tax upon tea importations, and finally the removal of this tax, explained the sudden and perplexingly large changes in the volume of the importations. The increases were due to either anticipation of a change in a law becoming effective, or a direct result of the change, and the decreases were due either to the reaction added to the direct effect of the law, or were caused by suspended imports pending such a change as the removal of the import duty brought about; the contrast being heightened when the accumulations came into the country. A note I prepared on the subject in a leading commercial paper and has been rather widely copied by trade and other papers including at least one in Ceylon; and as I have already furnished copies to the Executive Committee, I do not attach copy to this Report. As it is now admitted that there has been no falling-off in general importations when a sufficiently broad view of the situation is taken, I need not pursue the point here, and the remarks I have so far made are introductory to an examination of the great vitality shown by India and Ceylon tea in the way it has maintained and increased its position, relative to the general importations of tea in all seasons and through all fluctuations. In the ten years, 1898-1907, the general importations have ranged from, say, 72 million pounds up to about 108½ million pounds and down again to 86 million pounds. During the same period India and Ceylon tea has continued to increase in actual quantity and relatively, with but small fluctuations in this steady increase.

The figures are interesting enough to be inserted here:—

GROSS IMPORTS OF TEA INTO THE UNITED STATES,
YEARS ENDING 30TH JUNE.

Years.	*All Teas.*	*India and Ceylon.*	*Per cent.*
1898	71,957,912	6,984,375	9·7
1899	74,089,899	4,930,317	6·6
1900	84,845,107	8,246 230	9·7
1901	89,806,453	7,187,594	8·3
1902	75,579,125	8,475,179	11·2
1903	108,574,905	15,007,367	13·8
1904	112,905,541	16,485,554	14·6
1905	102,706,599	17,013,678	16·5
1906	93,621,750	17,696,994	18·9
1907	86,362,490	16,657,971	19·2

During the entire season under review the price of Indian and Ceylon tea has been much higher than in previous recent years, and a serious set-back in their importation into the United States might have been anticipated. So far from this being the case, however, the importations have been greater this season than in any previous season. The figures in the above table are for the fiscal years ending June 30th, which corresponds closely with the tea season in this country, and shipments then begin to arrive from the Far East. I therefore give here the figures for the first halves of the four last fiscal years showing the large increase during what nearly corresponds with the first half of season 1907-08. If there is not a sudden check, the importations for the 12 months ending 30th June, 1908, should show a very material increase over 1906-07 and over 1905-06 our biggest year so far.

IMPORTS OF TEA INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR SIX MONTHS
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER.

Years.	*All Teas.*	*India and Ceylon.*	*Per cent.*
1904	69,735,672	8,789,178	12·60
1905	63,808,218	7,902,689	12·40
1906	59,624,225	9,143,104	15·33
1907	72,379,078	11,849,344	16·37

Increase half-year 1907 over 1906:—

All Teas ...	21·3%
India and Ceylon	29·5%
Other teas ...	19·9%

In view of the financial conditions in this country for many months past restricting credit in all lines and forcing economies in every direction, the showing made by India and Ceylon tea is rather surprising.

India and Ceylon tea has not been considered an essential in this country, and the fact that sales have increased rather than diminished, in spite of high prices and the strained financial conditions, shows that there is a demand which cannot be satisfied with other teas. Were this not the case, a weakening in demand would be immediately reflected in the importations of India and Ceylon teas, the supply being so readily adjustable on account of the large proportion coming by way of London being divertable, under the system obtaining of Bills of Lading reading with alternatives in destination. Out of a total importation of about 14½ million pounds in the eight months ending 29th February, less than 40 per cent. of India and Ceylon tea came direct to the United States from the East Indies; so that the 60 per cent. divertable en-route apparently came to this country to make up the actual requirements of the market. Shipments from, or through, and divertable at, London, can, I think, be taken as a very sensitive barometer of the demand for India and Ceylon teas in this country.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

Ceylon's Import Duty on Tea.

In a letter, dated Calcutta, 15th August, 1908, the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, remarks:—

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY.

I am directed to refer to my letter to you No. 634-O of 22nd July, 1907, in the above connection. With that letter there was sent for information a copy of the representation, dated 16th idem, addressed by the General Committee to the Government of India submitting a copy of the joint letter forwarded by the different District and Branch Associations in India to this Association urging the importance to Indian tea interests of having the Ceylon Import Duty on Tea abolished.

The General Committee have now heard definitely from the Government of India that, after a correspondence on the subject between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon, it is not considered advisable to re-open the question at the present time, and I am to send you herewith a copy of Government's letter to that effect, dated the 25th ultimo, which is self-explanatory. It is much regretted that the combined efforts of all the District and Branch Associations and of this Association have not led to a more satisfactory result, but in view of the Government's decision, the Committee think you will agree with them that it would serve no useful purpose to press the matter further at present.

(INCLOSURE).

No. 7099—23. Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, Simla, the 25th July, 1908. (Commerce and Trade).

FROM

M. M. S. GUBBAY, ESQ., I.C.S.,
Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India.

TO

THE SECRETARY,
Indian Tea Association,
CALCUTTA.

SIR,

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 4840—23, dated the 20th May, 1908, I am directed to communicate the result of the reference made to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, in connection with your representation No. 631-O, dated the 16th July, 1907, on the subject of the import duty of 4 annas per pound levied on Indian Tea in Ceylon.

As you are already aware, the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been in communication with His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon on the subject. Sir H. MacCallum, has, after consulting the principal local commercial bodies, expressed the opinion that it is not advisable to re-open the question, at any rate at the present time.

The reasons which have influenced His Excellency in arriving at this decision are as follows:—

(*a*) That the allegation that local opinion has changed with regard to the proposal that Indian teas should be imported into Ceylon free of duty for blending purposes, is not accurate. The mercantile community generally, would probably be a gainer by the change, but their gain would be made largely at the expense of the local producer of tea. The former, therefore, have no very strong objection to offer to the innovation, while the latter are violently opposed to it.

(*b*) That the change is one which would be highly disadvantageous to the best interests of the Colony. Ceylon tea has won a high reputation through its excellence, but also by reason of the energy and enterprise of the Planting community which have combined to make its qualities widely known. Already some tea of Indian origin is exported in circumstances which unquestionably lead purchasers to suppose that it is the produce of Ceylon, and the adoption of the proposal to remove the export duty would lead to this taking place on a far more extended scale. Such sales, moreover, can only be made in direct competition with Ceylon teas, and it is therefore thought inadvisable to take action which is calculated directly to stimulate that competition.

(*c*) The removal of the import duty on Indian teas for blending purposes, would render it difficult to withhold a similar concession in favour of China teas imported *via* Hongkong. It is true that Hongkong does not produce tea, but it is one of the most important distributing centres of tea produced in China, is a free port, and is, moreover, a British Colony which might well claim a share in any privilege granted by Ceylon to British India.

In the circumstances His Majesty's Government do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

Mysore Industrial Exhibition, 1907.

The official Report on the Mysore Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, 1907, with catalogue and award list, has been published. From the planter's point of view the Exhibition was not very interesting, as the exhibits in Class II—Plantation and Garden Products—were neither numerous nor important. Rubber was not exhibited at all. Of Cardamoms (together with Tamarind and Seegekayee) it is remarked:—"These were of ordinary merit. The same may be said of spices and condiments generally, of which there was but a meagre collection." In respect to Coffee the report states:—"There was a good collection of Coffee from Messrs. Matheson & Co., of Hunsur, and Messrs. Stanes & Co., of Coimbatore. Mr. C. B. A. Narasimiengar exhibited a good variety of maidan Coffee." General remarks concerning Class II are as follows:—"Taken as a whole the exhibits under this head were not of a very high order, and there is ample room for improvement in quality, selection and method of exhibiting to the best advantage." In all, there were but sixteen exhibits of Coffee and ten of Cardamoms.

The Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition of 1908 will open at Mysore at the end of this month. Whether it will attract a better show of planting products, or arouse more interest among planters than its predecessor did, has yet to be seen.

THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1908.

Reference may be made to certain portions of the Proceedings at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of this Association. The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott, Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. and "Planting Member" of the Legislative Council of Fort St. George, presided at the Meeting, which opened at 3 P.M. on Monday, the 17th August, and was declared closed at 2 P.M. on Thursday, the 20th idem. A Committee Meeting was held at 11 A.M. on the 17th, when the Secretary's Annual Report was revised, the statement of accounts adopted, and details settled with regard to the agenda paper and the course of business.

The following delegates attended the Meeting:—Chairman and Planting Member of Council, the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott; Anamalais, Mr. G. L. Duncan; Central Travancore, Mr. J. A. Richardson; Kanan Devan, Mr. E. E. Williams; Mundakayam, Mr. J. A. Richardson; Nilgiris, Mr. E G. Windle; North Mysore, Mr. C. H. Browne; South Mysore, Messrs. J. G. H. Crawford, W. L. Crawford, J. G. Hamilton, C. K. Pittock and R. F. Lamb; Shevaroys, Mr. E. G. Windle; Travancore Cardamon Hills, Mr. J. A. Richardson; and Wynaad, Mr. H. Waddington.

Among the visitors who were present were Dr. Lehmann, Messrs. Krumbiegel, George Romilly, Pilkington, F. M. Hamilton, C. S. Crawford, W. Scholfield and J. Scott.

Annual Report, 1907-08.

There has been no change in the list of District Planters' Associations affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. The Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson resigned his seat on the Legislative Council of Fort St. George prior to proceeding to England, and Mr. C. E. Abbott, Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., was recommended for nomination as his successor. The Government of Madras, having decided that the Planting community should again be represented on their Legislative Council, appointed Mr. Abbott. In recognition of the valuable services rendered by Mr. H. P. Hodgson during four terms of office as "Planting Member," the Association asked the Madras Government to recommend that the title of "The Honourable" be conferred on him for life, as is sometimes done in the case of distinguished members of Legislative Councils in the Colonies. Government did not, however, see their way to make this recommendation. Month by month the *Planters' Chronicle* has reported the progress made in regard to various subjects that have been under consideration. It is unnecessary, therefore, to deal with them in detail here.

British Import Duty on Tea.—The duty now stands at 6*d.* per lb., efforts to secure a further reduction having been unavailing. The Anti-Tea-Duty League continues to work for a lower rate, and hopes are entertained that this will be reached if agitation concerning it be sustained.

Ceylon Import Duty.—The reference made to the Home Government as to the unfairness and unwisdom of Ceylon's heavy tariff on imports of tea from India has failed to induce a change of policy.

Indian Tea for India.—Little is said to have resulted from the scheme placed before the Annual Meeting last year, but the firm that submitted it wishes the matter to be taken into further consideration with a view to the more active co-operation of producers.

Popularisation of Coffee.—Mr. John C. Sanderson, the Association's representative in London, has taken a very keen interest in this subject, and has rendered very valuable service by his endeavours to get a definite plan of campaign drawn up and adopted. Such a plan has been submitted by the London Chamber of Commerce, and this Association has been requested to secure the adhesion of India to it. Details of the scheme suggested are to be treated as confidential for the present, but the decision whether India will support it or not will depend, firstly, on the willingness or unwillingness of the bulk of coffee-growers in this country to bear a proportionate portion of the

burden of financing the operations that are contemplated, and, secondly, on the consent of Government to adopt measures for the collection of a cess on coffee exported.

Press Quotations for Coffee.—It has been found impossible so far to arrange for the substitution of quotations for "East Indian B" in place of "Fair Rio No. 7."

Scientific Officer Scheme.—Replies received from the various Governments that were asked to help the Association to obtain the services of a qualified Scientific Officer to devote his attention entirely to planting products in Southern India have been very sympathetic. To the Madras Government, which directly approached the Governments of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin and the Coorg Administration on this subject, special thanks are due. That Government desire to have a specific declaration of the annual contributions that the Planting community will guarantee for a period of five years, this being regarded as the minimum term of appointment that could be offered to a suitable officer. When this is furnished the Government of Madras will be in a position to place before the Government of India the definite statement required by the latter as to the financial help promised by Governments and Planters. It is estimated that the total cost of employing a Scientific Officer will probably amount to Rs.12,000 a year, *viz.*—

	RS.
Salary @ Rs.750	9,000
Travelling Allowances, say	1,200
Contingencies, say	1,800
	Rs.12,000

Labour Recruiting and Emigration.—As desired by the Association, members of the Government of Madras were interviewed informally by the Hon'ble Mr. H. P. Hodgson and Mr. Aylmer F. Martin. The Report submitted by these gentlemen was confidential. Their representations proved effective, but some further points in respect to alleged malpractices of recruiters of emigrants cropped up later, and will be brought to the notice of the present Meeting

Commission on Money Orders.—As directed at the last Annual Meeting, your Secretary placed himself in communication with the Madras Trades Association. The only information received from that body is that "the subject of addressing the Director-General in regard to the reduction of Commission on Money Orders is still pending inquiry."

Theni Bridge.—Representations made to the Government of Madras have failed to advance this matter. In view of the proposal of the Madura District Board to construct a line of railway from Ammayanaikanur to Uttamapalaiyam, Government refused compliance with the request that the above District Board should be required to undertake the construction of a road bridge over the Theni River.

Madras Planters' Labour Act.—Dealing with the Resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of 1907, the Madras Government put forward certain suggestions for the amendment of the Madras Planters' Labour Act on other lines than those indicated by the Association. At the request of the two District Planters' Associations immediately concerned—Wynaad and Nilgiris—the amendment of the Act has been postponed to admit of full consideration of the matter by the Planters of the two Districts named.

Abyssinian Coffee.—The seed distributed by the Governments of Madras and Mysore in 1906 proved to be almost wholly sterile.

Rubber Cultivation in Mysore.—Representations made to the Mysore Government in terms of a Resolution adopted at the last Annual Meeting elicited an Order, the purport of which was to show that the rules in force provide sufficient facilities for obtaining lands which may be required for the cultivation of rubber and which may be granted without detriment to the interests of Government. Government state that they are always prepared to entertain favourably applications for lands, the grant of which will not be

detrimental to the interests of forest conservancy or the preservation of springs or the head-waters of streams, or be attended with any serious physical effects.

Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.—This matter remains, so far as can be judged, *in statu quo ante.* There is nothing to show that the work of construction is likely to be taken in hand at an early date or has even been definitely decided upon.

Rubber Exhibition in London.—The co-operation of Planters in South India was invited by the executive of the International Rubber and Allied Trades Exhibition, to be held at Olympia next month. In Travancore united action was taken in this connection, and individual Planters in other Districts are understood to have also arranged to send exhibits.

Financial.—It is gratifying to be able to state that the Government of H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore have graciously released the Association from liability in respect to the Rs.5,000 originally intended for expenditure in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and subsequently for helping to start some scheme beneficial to the Coffee industry.

A first dividend realised from the estate of the insolvent firm of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., Madras, formerly the Association's bankers, amounts to Rs.908-12-0.

Accounts.—The figures laid before the Meeting may be said to speak for themselves. Income has been in excess of, and expenditure below estimates, "actuals" for the year comparing with "budget" total as follows:—

		Estimate.	Actual.
Income	...	Rs.4,458-2-0	Rs.4,948 12-8
Expenditure	...	„ 3,540-0-0	„ 3,398-10-3

The increase in income is, however, more than accounted for by the dividend referred to above. Including subscriptions due but unpaid by the end of the official year (most of which has since been paid), and leaving out balance brought forward from 1906-07 and the proceeds of the lease of the *Planters' Chronicle* the income of the Association for the year 1907-08 may be put at Rs.3,251-14-8, as against expenditure Rs.3,389-10-3. The deficit is a small one, but it forms an additional argument in favour of that revision of the basis of subscriptions which has been under consideration for some time past and now appears to have been practically agreed to by almost all the subscribing Associations. Only a small increase is needed to enable this Association to show a surplus, in place of a deficit, at the end of each year, and if subscriptions are placed on an acreage basis the necessary increase will doubtless be secured. The Balance Sheet shows a credit balance of Rs.2,289-2-5, apart from the balance of the Association's claim on the estate of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.

In conclusion, your Secretary begs to tender his resignation.

The Chairman's Address.

The Chairman, the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, said:—

GENTLEMEN,—The Secretary's Report—as we have learned to expect it to do—summarises very clearly the subjects that have been before the Association during the past 12 months; and the *Planters' Chronicle*, under Mr. Ormerod's editorship, has continued to keep the whole community in touch with our work.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mr. Richardson brought forward certain proposals last year to rehabilitate our finances after the heavy loss we sustained through Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.'s failure. His plan was that all Associations should subscribe at a fixed rate of 8 pies per cultivated acre. I am glad to say that this has been agreed to. We have received a first dividend of Rs. 900 odd, from the liquidator of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co.'s affairs,

Dr. Lehmann and Mr. Cameron.

We have learned with much regret that Dr. Lehmann is severing his connection with the Mysore Government at the end of this year. Planters owe him much for the assistance he has always been ready to give them individually in the various problems connected with Agricultural Science, and for his addresses to this Association when we have been privileged to receive him at our Meetings.

We have also to regret the departure of Mr. John Cameron, so many years the Superintendent of Government Gardens in Mysore, who was always anxious to give us the benefit of his long experience.

Coffee Cess.

You resolved last year to ask Government to put an export duty on coffee to be devoted to popularising it, providing the other coffee-producing countries supported the scheme. Your representatives on the London Chamber of Commerce gave much time to this subject, and the proposal they have put before you is that each of the ten coffee producing countries should subscribe £2,000 a year to be devoted to advertising. It may be said by some that this is unfair, and that Brazil, which produces a hundred-fold more coffee than India ought to pay more towards the campaign. But Brazil already is spending a great deal of money in maintaining the coffee market. I think that the way Indian Coffee Planters ought to look at the matter is that they are asked at tax themselves as Tea Planters do, for an object that their Expert Advisers believe would immensely benefit them. Moreover, we may be sure that Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Brooke-Mockett, whose work on our behalf deserves our warmest thanks, have made the best terms they can for us that are likely to be acceptable to other countries. If Coffee Planters are convinced —as I believe they are—of the necessity of taking steps to increase the consumption of coffee there ought to be no more delay in submitting their request to the Government of India.

The Ceylon Duty on Tea.

A subject that we hold very strong views about is the Ceylon import duty on tea. The Ceylon Planters insist on a prohibitive duty being maintained in order to prevent India tea being imported into the Island, while their tea is freely admitted into this country at a 5 % *ad valorem* duty, with liberty to declare the value as low as they like. Our efforts to get this duty removed have been supported by the Government of India, by the Press in this country as well as in Ceylon, by the Indian Tea Association, and by the various Chambers of Commerce. The position is so grossly unfair between two neighbouring British dependencies that it has attracted general attention. There are about 4 million lbs. of Ceylon tea annually sent into India for consumption, while no Indian tea can be imported into Ceylon. Till quite lately Ceylon Planters have said that they were willing to admit Indian tea if they were allowed to discriminate against low class China and Java tea. Of course they knew that they would not be allowed to; but the offer sounded polite. But only last month the Government of India in a letter addressed to the Indian Tea Association published the Ceylon Government's final decision. The pronouncement shows the power that Ceylon Planters have over their Government. The wishes of the Commercial community which has declared itself strongly in favour of the abolition of the tax are mentioned with contempt, and it is plainly stated that the abolition of the duty would lead to Indian tea competing with the Ceylon article, and that it is thought inadvisable to take action to stimulate that competition. This expression of pure protectionism has been forwarded to India through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who agrees with the letter, and says that His Majesty's Free Trade Government do not propose to take further action in the matter. We cannot blame His Majesty's Government, which is, we may assume, fairly sick of interfering with Colonial opinion. We may at least be thankful that the Ceylon Planters' Association has said what it has really meant all along; and I only wish that my friend Mr. Beachcroft, who is now Chair-

man, had persuaded his colleagues to drop the stereotyped tag about the superiority of Ceylon tea to Indian and their anxiety that nothing should be exported that would sully their names as the only producers of pure tea on earth. The prices of Ceylon tea in London are no better than those of the tea we send from Southern India, while the prices of Northern India tea are far higher than anything produced in Ceylon. As to purity, we have had samples of some of the tea that Ceylon imports into India brought to these Meetings, and declared by Tea Planters to be nothing but factory sweepings. But though these reflections may ease our minds, they don't alter the fact that we are up against a stone wall, and it will be for you to discuss what we are to do next.

Labour and Emigration.

The methods of cooly recruiters for the Straits were fully discussed last year. Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Martin interviewed the Madras Government after our Meeting, and our complaints about advertisements on public buildings have been attended to. I may as well say here that Government have nothing to do with advertisements on Railway Stations. The Indian Government do not in any way recognise the Straits Labour Agency either by licensing recruiters or depôts. We must be the first to admit that no Government ought to prevent its subjects from emigrating when they think they have a prospect of doing better in another country. My belief is that these labour difficulties will right themselves in time. Southern India and Ceylon Planters have got along quite peacefully for the last fifty or sixty years. The rise of the great tea industry in Ceylon did not affect our friendly relations. What has caused trouble is the sudden and enormous development of the rubber industry in the Straits. The Planters who went there were usually Ceylon men, who quite naturally wanted the class of cooly they were accustomed to and whose language they understood. But Straits Planters are already getting coolies from the Dutch East Indies, whose 68 million inhabitants offer an inexhaustible supply of labour. Moreover, the fact that our Indian fellow-subjects are constantly emigrating in vast numbers to countries where they are not welcomed, seems to show that, with proper organisation, India can supply all the labour that is required. Meanwhile, our business is to do all we can to ensure that no favour is shown to recruiters for countries outside India at our expense, which we have a perfect right to do—especially considering the unfriendly attitude of some of those countries towards our industries. We must ask Government to entirely dissociate themselves from the recruiting agencies, and to prevent emigrants being deceived by false promises. Beyond that we must help ourselves. The Straits imported 60,000 coolies from India last year, and expect to import as many in 1908. Complaints have recently been made about the Ceylon labour agents having enticed away coolies who were under advance to estates in Wynaad and the coolies names are given. Hitherto those who have come in contact with the Official Ceylon Agency have found it quite fair dealing. But there may be outside agents at work. A surprising complaint was brought before the Wynaad Association of a Police Constable being found on an estate reading a Tamil handbill to the coolies, in which they were promised a free passage to Ceylon, where men were to be paid 7 annas a day, and women 6 annas.

Scientific Officer.

Immediately after our last Meeting we asked the Madras Government to appoint a Scientific Officer to work for three years entirely under the U. P. A. S. I., towards whose salary the different Associations agreed to pay Rs.3,000 annually. Our request was received most sympathetically. The Governments of Native States in South India were asked to contribute, and responded liberally. The promised subscriptions amounted to Rs.7,500 a year, and we almost expected to welcome our Scientific Officer at this Meeting Unfortunately, the whole business has been hung up because our Secretary was unable to guarantee the subscriptions for five years instead of three years. This difficulty has now, I am glad to say, been overcome, and we trust the appointment will soon be made.

Labour Law.

The only remark I need make about the Madras Planters' Labour Law is that it is still only in force in the Nilgiri District and in the Wynaad Taluq of Malabar. After considering the amendments offered by Government the two Associations concerned have asked that action should be suspended for the present. Those who are interested in the subject ought to read Mr. Waddington's printed statement of the amendments we asked for and those that were offered us.

Railways in Planting Districts.

From what we heard at our last Meeting it was understood that the Mysore Durbar intended to construct a railway from Mysore to Hassan and Arsikere, which line would provide a section of the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway which has so long been a pressing need, and that the Durbar would then urge on the British Government the advisability of completing the section of the line outside Mysore territory. Since then I regret to state that both the Madras and Mysore Governments have informed us that there is no intention of constructing this line. It would have to some extent served Coorg Planters, who were willing to give up their own cherished project in its favour, and the outcome of our efforts is most disappointing. The remark of His Excellency the Governor of Madras to the effect that those who would be chiefly benefited by the line did not seem to care much about it, leads us to suppose that the Mysore Government is responsible.

The European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association.

There is one more subject to which I ought to allude. I received a letter lately from Mr. Irwin, the Chairman of the Darjeeling Planters' Association. He says, what we will all agree to, that in the present state of unrest in India all non-official Europeans ought to stand together. He goes on to suggest that all Planters ought to join the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association. The proposal has been well received in Northern India, where Planters have no Central Association like ours. I promised to read his letters at this Meeting, and the subject is on the agenda for discussion. The E. and A.-I. Defence Association has been in existence for twenty-five years, and did good work against the Ilbert Bill. It has now large invested funds and a small list of members who pay a rather heavy subscription. Its objects are excellent. Its present methods leave me cold. I believe that with an influx of new members and a reduced subscription, it is intended to bring it to the front and to take a strong line in politics. We must all sympathise with our brother Planters in Bengal, and we abominate the outrages that have been committed in their midst. Many of us will wish to join the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association as a sign of our sympathy. But I think that, as an Association, we ought to be careful how we get mixed up in heated political discussions; especially as we could have little voice in an Association with its headquarters in Calcutta. My dual position is, perhaps, a little unfortunate; but you will, I hope, believe me when, speaking as your Chairman, I say that I do not agree with the attacks that have been made on the Madras Government for what is called their apathy. I have no confidential communications to make to you. Speaking entirely as an outsider, I say that I do not believe Government are afraid. I lived for some years under "martial law and no damned nonsense." I assure you that it is less pleasant even for the law-abiding than those who are asking for it might imagine.

Work of the Planting Member.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott having temporarily vacated, and the Vice-Chairman (Mr. J. G. Hamilton) taken the Chair, the former made the following statement in his capacity as Planting Member of Council:—

I have to thank you for the honour you have done me by nominating me to be your representative in the Madras Legislative Council. I have a diffi-

cult task before me in succeeding Mr. Hodgson, who so ably filled the post for four terms of office, and I heartily regret that he had to resign. He knew all the members of Government personally, and living in Ootacamund was much more in touch with Planting politics than I can ever hope to be. He had done a great deal towards bringing the whole European community, official and non-official, together by raising the Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles, which he commands. So I can only ask your indulgence for any faults that you may find in me later on, or that you have already discovered. I have heard my predecessor object to this heading on the agenda paper. He rather thought that the work of the Planting Member was more or less distributed over all the subjects. But I am glad it is down this year. I was only nominated a few days before the Budget Meeting, which I attended, but did not speak at. So any work I may be able to do for you is in the future; and it is as well that I should have an opportunity of ascertaining your views on the line we ought to take on certain subjects that are likely to be soon brought to the notice of Government. I may mention that there was one matter of considerable importance to the Travancore Associations that I intended to bring up at the Budget Meeting. But just before starting for Madras I got a letter asking me to leave it alone for the present, as there was a likelihood of local authorities doing what was necessary. If you decide to ask for the coffee cess, the Association will first have to go to the Government of India. But as practically all the coffee that is exported from India goes from Madras ports, the Governments of Madras and Mysore are likely to have a great deal to do with the decision. I rather wish we had passed Mr. Hamilton's Resolution unconditionally last year and asked for a cess to be imposed, because we would have found out by now if Government approved of the principle, and what opposition, if any, we have to encounter.

Another subject that there is a movement on foot to secure Government assistance in some form or other for, is the duty on Indian tea sent to Ceylon. The latest development of the controversy is a proposal to put an export duty on all coal and rice destined for Ceylon, and a poll-tax on every cooly recruited for work there. Now that sounds attractive and it would certainly be effective. It is put forward by business men who I presume think there is a chance of its being adopted. But to my mind it involves a risk not only to Tea Planters, but to Coffee Planters and to every employer of labour in Southern India. The Ceylon Planters have put the matter plainly as one of self-interest. We may with perfect politeness pass over their claim to produce a superior tea to Indian as mere advertisement. I am beginning to think that the Ceylon Planters' Association wants to use this tax as a lever to get something out of the Indian Government. They say they are very badly off for labour now, and we know their Agents are making desperate efforts to open new recruiting grounds. Their rubber estates will be coming into bearing soon like our own; and then the position will be infinitely worse. We are making a great outcry about the injury this tax does us. Supposing the Ceylon Planters suddenly offered to drop it if the Government gave them greater facilities and encouragement for recruiting labour. Now as an Association with a large contingent of Coffee and Rubber Planters would that suit us? We have our own labour difficulties and have already had to complain that Government are encouraging coolies to leave the country. I do not want to minimise the annoyance and loss that this unjustifiable tax causes Tea Planters. All I say is, do not make out that it is a matter of life and death. Do not put it in any one's power to say, 'very well, send your tea duty free to Colombo and make your fortunes, and let the Ceylon Planters have the same facilities for getting coolies that the Transvaal Mine owners had in China.' That is highly improbable; but we don t want them to have any more facilities than they have now. We have annoyed Government once by declaring that we could not exist without something that we did not want when we got it.

As I said before, I am in your hands, and will do my best to carry out your instructions. But we must remember that the Home Government have said that the subject is closed. And as Tea Planters know, we can and do sell tea to Colombo merchants. We have got our own Government on our side. Let us ask them to see that no Ceylon tea is imported that is unfit for human

consumption. And in their own interests we can ask them to insist on a fair value being declared for Customs purposes. I believe tea is being valued as low as one anna a pound, which is obviously unfair.

Another subject that may be expected to engage our attention is the amendment of the Madras Planters' Labour Law. My opinion of this Act is well enough known. As Secretary to my own Association and as delegate to Bangalore I have denounced it as strongly as I could in decent language, though by no means as strongly as I would have liked to. I am not going to rat "over the matter," nor is Wynaad. But I clearly recognise that you do not want your representative in the Legislative Council to try to force his own opinions in this matter either on yourselves or on Government. There is a feeling among other Associations that if the Act can be amended in certain directions it will be useful to Planters. So if you will draw up the amendments you want I will do all I can to get them passed. Of course there are some amendments that Government have already refused, and that I do not think it is any use asking for again. For instance, you will not get specific performance. The objection to the old Act is that you could not force a maistry who had taken your money to bring his coolies to the estate and work there for the period of his contract. You cannot do it under the new Act, and Government have refused to alter it on that point. Nor can you force the maistry to take out warrants against his defaulting coolies. Then there are various clauses in the Act that would be reasonable enough if the cooly were being taken away across the sea, or into some very unhealthy climate under a long agreement, but which are quite unnecessary and oppressive when the cooly is living within a couple of days' journey from his own home and usually in a better climate, and can only engage for a year, which means in practice eight or nine months on the estate.

Under our conditions it is not fair to allow a cooly to come in June, and immediately give you notice that in three months he will leave you for some other estate. Then again every cooly, if he is ill, whether by his own fault or not, has to be given half pay until he is well again. All I will say about that is that I do not know of any other class of day labourer who enjoys the privilege. Certainly coolies in Government employ do not. Another objectionable clause provides that if any cooly thinks he has a grievance he can inform the Planter that he is going to the nearest Magistrate to make a complaint against him, and his employer is bound to give him full pay while he is absent on that errand. If the Magistrate thinks the cooly has been too hard worked, or is not comfortably housed, he can cancel his cooly's contract, make the Planter give him compensation, pay him up in full, and let him leave the estate. Then we have our lines inspected by any officer Government likes to send, our check rolls examined, and our coolies taken off the work and asked if they have any complaints against their employer.

I do not see why we should have to submit to all this when Government allow coolies to go on long engagements to Ceylon and elsewhere without any such precautions. These are only samples of the provisions of the Act that I cannot understand any representative of yours in Council having agreed to. They are capable of being worked so as to ruin any Planter. I have heard men say that it is better not to allude to them, lest coolies and maistries should find out their powers. If the ostrich is such a foolish bird as he is represented to be, that strikes me as being a most ostrich-like frame of mind. The maistries and coolies may perhaps, like Mark Twain's prisoner, never find out that the door is unlocked. To me it seems that the mere fact that these powers are not being constantly used against us ought to convince Government that we are on such good terms with our coolies as to make them unnecessary. There is another thing we have been told, that there has been some promise given that Government will not enforce their powers under the Act. I have never found out who made that promise and to whom. We have read that there are in Secret Societies some such terrible mysteries that only the Arch High Priest or the head centre for the time being is allowed to know them and to pass them on to his successor. I can assure you that neither as your Chairman nor as your Planting Member has his secret been confided to me.

The E. and A.-I. Defence Association.

The Secretary read the correspondence with the Chairman of the Darjeeling Planters' Association on this subject, and some discussion took place in Committee, when the following Resolution was passed :—" That this Association is strongly in sympathy with the declared objects of the E. and A.-I. Defence Association, but owing to the lack of information regarding its past history and future possibilities, recommends that it should circulate full information as to its constitution, history, objects and Rules to the Associations affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. for their consideration in their own Districts."

The consensus of opinion was that it was not a matter for the U. P. A. S. I., but for individuals to take up.

The Theni Bridge.

On this subject Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON (Central Travancore) spoke as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,—In bringing forward for the third time before this Meeting the matter of the Theni Bridge, I do so, with the intention of speaking very strongly on the subject. It may be that the Government of Madras are not fully aware of the urgent necessity of this bridge and the source of danger its want is to both life and property, as I cannot imagine that the paltry cost of some Rs.18,000 or Rs.20,000 is the cause of the delay. As I intend asking our Planting Member to again put the matter before the Government of Madras, I should like for his guidance and to save any further misunderstanding on the part of Government to give you a short account of our grievance from the beginning.

It is now some thirteen years since the High Range and Peermade started opening on a large scale, and the traffic on this road has increased by leaps and bounds. A railway was spoken of and has been spoken of for the last thirteen years, and is even now thrown in our face as an excuse for not building this bridge. For thirteen years we have been waiting for this railway, and it seems just as far as off as ever. How very different is the case of the Ceylon Planters who wants a railway in South India, mark you, to help him to recruit, according to the latest statistics, 150,000 more coolies. The Ceylon Planter, however, being a power in the land, gets his Government to intimate to the Government of Madras that a line to Paumben is necessary, with the result that it is practically promised to them at once, whereas we with millions invested in the country cannot even get a miserable bridge of some 60 or 70 feet span built. I think, to say the least of it, we have been disgracefully treated in this matter. To get on with facts, however, in 1905, having given up all hopes of the railway, we urged Government to build us two bridges, one across the Periyakulam river and one across the Theni river.

In May of that year, as Chairman of the Kanan Devan Planters' Association, I met by appointment Mr. McFarland, President of the Dindigul Taluq Board, then on circuit at Bodynaikanur. I discussed the need of those two bridges with him, in which he fully sympathised with us. Besides the representations of the Kanan Devan and Peermade and Cardamom Hill Associations, we were backed up by memorials signed by all the principal inhabitants of every town and village between Periyakulam and Cumbum. In July of the same year, as a result of these representations, Mr. Bedford, the Collector of Madura, and Mr. McFarland visited the sites of those bridges and came up to Mannar, a distance of between 40 and 50 miles from Theni, in the middle of the monsoon, and attended a Committee Meeting of the Kanan Devan Association to discuss the matter with us. At that Meeting Mr. Bedford explained to us that the most suitable point for a bridge across the Periyakulam river was just where the railway bridge would come, and he could not hold out any hopes of a cart road bridge at the moment. As this river is not so dangerous as the other, we did not press the matter. In the case of the Theni bridge, however, he quite saw the necessity, and as it would not in any way interfere with the line of the railway said he thought we might count on its being done at once,

The matter of cost was spoken of, and it was stated that a Government estimate had been made some years previously putting it down at about Rs.25,000. An estimate had also been made by the Chief Engineer of the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company and sent in to Government putting it, as far as I can remember, at some Rs.17,000 or Rs.18,000. We were assured that money was not the difficulty and that we would get the Theni bridge. We congratulated ourselves that the Theni Bridge had at last disappeared from our agenda papers, and thanked those two gentlemen for their assurance that we should have the bridge and for coming such a long way in a heavy burst of monsoon when travelling in the Hills is anything but pleasant. On the strength of this assurance the Resolution being brought forward by the Kanan Devan delegate at the U. P. A. in 1905 was cancelled by wire. Alas! as the old proverb says, "there is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" and the slip still continues where the Theni Bridge ought to be. Our two friends disappeared, one on Home furlough and the other transferred, and on our writing to their successors we were calmly told that the Madura District Board could not see their way to build the bridge. In 1906 and 1907 the matter was brought up here and brought to the notice of the Government of Madras through our Planting Member; in both cases all the reply we got was that owing to the uncertainty of the railway they could not see their way to build the bridge. Railway or no railway, we want this bridge, and I would point out that at the time we were promised it there was one of these periodical bursts of energy on amongst the officials concerned and we were told that the railway was about to be commenced at once, so that the officials on the spot, who should understand the wants of their districts, did not think the construction of the railway should obviate the necessity of the bridge. Had that river been on the Ammayanaikanur side of the turn off to Kodi, where our Government officials go to cool themselves in the hot weather, we should not have had to ask for the Theni Bridge. It would have been built twenty years ago.

I can only come to the conclusion that our Government officials do not travel much beyond Periyakulam during the North-east Monsoon, otherwise they would know the trouble and danger travellers are put to through the want of this bridge. It is quite a common thing to find 30 to 40 carts delayed on either side of the river waiting for the flood to subside, and even then our produce, which is principally tea, suffers irreparable damage, and rice coming up to feed our coolies gets wet and arrives on the estate in a putrid mass, and is probably issued to the coolies by unscrupulous contractors with results which can best be imagined. Heaven help the wretched traveller, especially if he or she be a stranger to the country, who arrives on the banks of the Theni river to find it in flood. It is quite impossible to procure anything in the shape of food, and they may be held up there for a day or more with no bungalow nearer than Periyakulam on the one side and Bodynaikanur on the other, some 11 or 12 miles in either case, and even when the flood does subside they are surrounded by gangs of unscrupulous coolies, who trade on the floods demanding anything from Rs.5 to 25 to pilot their bandy across.

We have had the patience of Job in this matter, and our appeals have been mild in the extreme, but I would now ask our Planting Member to put the case before the Government of Madras in the strongest possible language without actually breathing sedition, and insist on something being done at once. Both Peermade and Mundakayam Associations approached the Postmaster-General on the matter, as our Mails are constantly delayed, and his reply is that they have already laid before Government the necessity of this bridge.

Dr. Lehmann's Address.

Dr. Lehmann spoke as follows:—

The subject on which I had hoped to speak to you to-day is the determination of quality in coffee. You may remember that the analyses of those samples of coffee your Secretary got for me some years ago had not been finished some months ago. I started to finish that work but a number of circumstances conspired to prevent that work being completed. The determination of the alkaloids and the tannic acid have been only just begun,

The various other determinations have, however, been completed sufficiently far to indicate that none of them are in themselves of much value in determining the quality of coffee, and as the determination of the alkaloids and the tannic acid are too complicated to be of much use for the purpose desired, the question at issue really remains where it was three years ago, *viz.*, that for experimental purposes the determination of the specific gravity of the bean is the most convenient and at the same time the most reliable index of the quality of coffee we possess at present. I sincerely hope that when the Scientific Officer for the Planting industry of South India whom we have been so anxious to see for some time past actually arrives, he will find that method useful when making his experiments on the conditions affecting the quality of coffee.

Another problem I have been trying to solve for you and to which I have already referred is that of the availability of bone meal or rather to determine what factors contributed to make the bone meal comparatively readily available. You may remember that on Hallery Estate comparatively large splinters of bone were disintegrated in less than a year's time, while on Kelagore Estate crushed bones were still being dug up 30 years after they had been applied. In the one case they were applied on the surface on top of a mulch of decomposing leaves. The only covering they received consisted in the leaves from the shade trees and coffee bushes which fell on top of them. In the course of eight or ten months the pieces of bone were so disintegrated that they crumbled to powder when touched. On the other estate the bone meal had been applied in pits and pieces dug up at least twenty-nine years later were still quite tough, though comparatively light and spongy. They still contained a considerable portion of their nitrogen (over 1½ per cent.) so that even this constituent, which is generally considered to be readily available in bone meal, could not be fully utilised by the plants during this long term of years. As bone meal is the cheapest fertiliser at our disposal, it is of vital importance to us to know how to be able to use it to the best advantage. Unless we can depend on it decomposing much more rapidly than it did on the estate in which it was dug in deeply it is absolutely useless applying it. But if we could count on it being thoroughly disintegrated in the course of a year's time it would undoubtedly be the best fertiliser at our disposal.

As some of you know, I have been trying to find out the conditions favouring the rapid decomposition of bone meal. The plan I adopted was to use pots filled with soil all of which had passed through a fine sieve (1 mm. mesh). In some of these the coarse bone meal was mixed with the upper 2 inches of soil, some of these were covered with a layer of vegetable mould, in others the vegetable mould and the bone meal were both mixed with the upper 2 inches of soil. In some the bone meal was applied on the top of the soil and covered with vegetable mould, and finally in some the bone meal was applied on top of a layer of vegetable mould and covered with cut leaves, imitating as I thought as closely as possible the conditions existing in Hallery Estate. The crop grown on these pots was ragi followed by avari. But the results indicate that I have failed to imitate those conditions even approximately, for in none of the experiments was the bone meal anything like completely decomposed. Where it was on top the soil covered by a layer of vegetable mould or between a layer of vegetable mould and leaves only 10 per cent. or less was decomposed during the year. Where the bone meal was mixed with the top two inches of the soil up to about 25 per cent. were decomposed in the same length of time. A statement that lime prevents the decomposition of bone meal because it combines with the carbonic acid which would otherwise help to disintegrate the bone meal, is frequently met with. But in the experiments I have conducted last year the addition of a quantity of lime equal in weight to the bone meal applied to the soil had no retarding influence on the decomposition of the latter. Nor did the addition of organic matter to the soil help in the decomposition of the bone meal. The next step I should be inclined to suggest in the solution of this problem is to call in the aid of a Mycologist. The micro-organisms growing on the surface of a soil which has been covered with a layer of leaves for years, and is protected by the coffee and the shade trees sheltering them are probably quite

different to those found on a soil which has been unprotected for years and has recently been dug up and filled into pots. In the latter case micro-organisms are probably relatively few and far between. And it is reasonable to expect that micro-organisms play a very important part in the decomposition of the bone meal.

Other experiments I have made in applying fertilisers on the surface not covered by anything have given decidedly poorer crops than where the same kind and quantity of fertiliser was mixed with the upper two inches of soil. That appears to indicate that fertilisers must be dug into the soil. But we must always remember that coffee cultivation differs materially from the ordinary agricultural practices. As we have seen, bone meal may decompose much more readily if applied on the surface of a coffee estate where it is covered by a natural mulch than it does when used in any ordinary agricultural practice. The same thing may and possibly does apply to the other fertilisers we use on the estate. But if we follow ordinary agricultural methods and dig our estate frequently we must also dig in the fertilisers we apply to them.

The Scientific Officer Scheme.

With reference to the Scientific Officer Scheme, the following statement of the support accorded to the Association was read in open Meeting :—

	Per year for 5 years
	RS.
Wynaad	... 650
Nilgiris	... 780
North Mysore	... 800
South Mysore	... 635
Shevaroys	.. 115
Annamalais	... 60
Total	... 3,040
Cochin Government	... 500
Coorg Government	... 1.000
Travancore Government .. .	... 2,000
Mysore Government	... 1,000
Total	... 7,540

Rubber in Travancore and Cochin.

Mr. J. A. Richardson gave the following interesting account of the Rubber Industry of Travancore :—

"The rubber planting industry of Southern India has made rapid strides during the last few years and South India as a rubber-producing country will in the near future take a very important place.

"It has already been proved that Pará rubber (I am now speaking of Travancore and Cochin) can be brought to the tapping stage in its fifth year.

"In this connection I should like to draw attention to a statement made by Mr. C. E. Welldon, a Ceylon Planter, read and printed in the July *Chronicle*, which is as follows :—

Mr. C. E. Welldon, a Ceylon Planter, considers that 4-year old rubber trees in Java and the Straits Settlements are practically equal, and that they are both equal to 5 and 5½-year trees in Ceylon. On account of the soil and the absence of droughts the yield in Java (especially) and the Straits should, this gentleman thinks, exceed that of Ceylon or South India.

"From this statement he would seem to infer that Ceylon and South India are on a par as regards growth, which we in Southern India are not prepared to admit.

"We consider our growth to be very fine indeed, in proof of which we have the following measurements taken by Managers of some ten Estates in Travancore and Cochin :—

6 years.	4 years.	3 years.	2 years.
32	19·04	12·10	8·52

"These are the averages of the returns sent in. I do not suppose they have taken their worst trees, but the fact that we have such trees, I think, is proof that we have growth that is second to none.

"The biggest measurements sent in, although only of individual trees, are worth mentioning, and are as follows :—

6 years.	4 years.	3 years.	2 years.
33·75	23·25	19·50	12·50

"These are all Pará Rubber. I have received measurements of 4-year old Castilloa at 32 inches and 2-year old Ceará at 27½.

"I may mention that the 4-year old Castilloa has been tapped and I have with me samples of biscuits, as well as Pará biscuits from both low and high elevation rubber.

"I have also some photographs which are interesting.

"I have also received a record of the tapping of 7 Pará trees 12 to 15 year old which during the last 3 months have given a yield of 28 lbs. of dry rubber, an average of 4 lbs. each.

"I do not think there is any doubt about the yielding powers of our rubber, as our fine soil which has already shown its effect in the matter of growth must also tell on the out-turn of rubber and healthy and rapid removal of bark."

The Popularization of Coffee.

Mr. J. G. Hamilton (South Mysore) delivered the following speech advocating the Coffee Popularization Scheme : —

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—I think it will be well to commence by reading the resolutions on which I propose to address you. They are as follows :—

1. That this Association confirms its resolution of last year, *viz.*—

That this Association cordially accepts the offer laid before it by Mr. Sanderson, and should the support of the different countries named be obtained, is prepared to address the Government with the request that, within the limits proposed by Mr. Sanderson, a cess similar to the Tea Cess, be levied on all coffee exported, and the proceeds devoted to the campaign for the Popularization of Coffee.

2. That this Association appoints Messrs. Windle, Williams and Hamilton to be a Committee to draft a petition to the Viceroy praying for the collection for 5 years of a cess of 3 annas per cwt. on all coffee exported out of the Indian Empire. The said draft to be submitted to this Meeting for approval.

3. That in anticipation of our petition being granted, a Committee consisting of (1) the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if the Chairman be not interested in coffee); (2) one Member of every recognized Association interested in coffee (whether affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. or not); and (3) one Member who is not a Member of any Association from every coffee District, *i.e.*, North Mysore, South Mysore, Coorg, Nilgiris, Wynaad, Shevaroy Hills, Anamalai Hills, Nelliampathy Hills, Palni Hills, and Travancore, be appointed to deal with the funds so obtained on the same lines as the Indian Tea Cess Committee and the Thirty Committee in Ceylon.

4. That Messrs. Browne, Pittock and Abbott be appointed to be a Sub-Committee to draft Rules for the conduct of such Committee, the said draft to be submitted to this Meeting for approval.

5. That any surplus funds after payment of our proportion to the promoters of the European scheme may be devoted to the development of Eastern markets.

Before commencing any attempt at argument in favour of my proposition I will, as briefly as possible, sketch the past year's history of and comment on the criticisms on this proposal, which, as you are aware, was first put forward by Mr. Sanderson, though it arose out of our enquiries on the sore subject of adulteration.

One of the first events was a Meeting of the North Mysore Native Planters' Association at which our proposals were attacked, but I think the principal factor in the opposition was an error which somehow crept into their records leading them to understand that we were demanding an acreage cess, which would have pressed hardly on many of them. I had the good fortune to be passing through Chickmaglur last month while they were holding a Meeting and was an interested visitor. At this Meeting I was able to put them fairly fully in possession of my personal views, but as it was not a very full Meeting they preferred not to come to any definite conclusion. I regret to say that I have since received a communication from them opposing the cess. They take the curious line that Brazil land and resources are unlimited and illimitable, to use their expression, ignoring the fact that the use of the former is practically prohibited and that the latter have shown signs of such weakness that if not assisted the world will be flooded with coffee which must be sold at any price. They also have a very curious idea that the prices of tea are not appreciably better for the Tea Cess. I do not know what rise they would appreciate, but in spite of vastly increased production prices have risen 40 per cent., or even if we allow 1*d.* to be possibly due to removal of duty 20 per cent., and in addition room has been found in 1907 for 170,000,000 lbs. of tea outside the United Kingdom, Indian sales in this line having increased in 5 years from 47¼ millions to 78¾ million pounds. What would prices have been without this extra consumption? I must say it seems to me that the majority of those at the Chickmaglur Meeting, for they were not unanimous, have failed to understand the question in all its aspects, and I feel confident that when they succeed in doing so, they will follow the example of Native Planters in other Districts, who from all I can gather have quite grasped the situation and are anxious to join us in doing all we can to ameliorate our unfortunate position.

Then came an article in the *Madras Mail*, giving extracts from a correspondent's letter. This correspondent made the common mistake of believing that South Indian Planters are going to undertake to run Europe without help or even against competition. No greater misconception of my intentions exists. I am ready to say let us do something, even single-handed if necessary, but if single-handed then let us work nearer home.

This same correspondent ridicules any attempt to push Indian coffee against others. He must have been thinking of Mr. Gompertz's speech in 1901. I have never considered that we had strength enough to do this, enfeebled as we have been by the sudden jump in exchange, and a narrow scheme for booming East India coffee against the rest must fail if the rest oppose us. We must take a wide view and ask if it is not a fact that if we all together can engineer a general improvement in the coffee trade relative values will be more or less maintained, and if we, in India, keep up our quality we shall maintain the position of our coffee as one of the leading kinds. We no longer stand absolutely alone in quality and must bestir ourselves, but that is another story and does not concern us to-day. I just want you and all others to consider whether it is not a common-sense economic view to take that a general increased demand must lead to increase of price all round. Remember, too, if we stand out, Brazil coffee alone will be advertized and pushed, and the public will only take East India at the price of Brazil, if they do not offer less. If all are advertized generally there will be as much discrimination as there is now, and while the ultimate actual

consumers may not as a rule make much distinction the grocer seems to find that East India sells best.

After this article in the *Madras Mail*, over which I have taken up a lot of your time, we had the satisfaction of receiving assurances of probable support from Brazil through Dr. F. F. Ramos, and though subsequently we heard of separate arrangements being made through a S. Paulo Company, assisted no doubt by Government, we were informed that this Company's operations would be in no way antagonistic to a General Propaganda.

Then in February we heard of probable support from the Republic of Columbia.

The next on my file is a private letter from Mr. Sanderson in reply to one of mine, asking whether he could suggest any improvements on our side towards standardising and improving our coffee.

He does not find much fault, and I therefore reserve comment for the next subject on our agenda paper.

Then in May we received the rather unexpected revelation that East India coffee and some others were not to be tendered for in War Office contracts. I have not yet heard what has been done over this.

Next we received a draft scheme which we may look at in Committee, but at present no public discussion is advisable.

Then I received a private letter giving information as to the excessive use of tea on the Continent now where coffee used to be drunk almost exclusively before. I mention this only as a spur to Coffee Planters to wake up and defend themselves against our friendly foe.

Then I had a communication from our Chairman showing me that on existing statistics a 3*d.* cess seemed likely to produce over £3,000 per annum.

On top of that a confidential letter from Mr. Sanderson was received, suggesting that a lower rate might be sufficient, but I don't know whether I am at liberty to disclose figures in public. In Committee I may do so, but anyhow I am presently going to oppose the imposition of anything under 3*d.* I, personally, would accept a higher cess, but would not like to propose or actively support one, as I doubt if it would be generally welcomed.

I don't think it will be a serious breach of confidence to extract from Mr. Sanderson's letter his remark that the coffee trade generally is taking great interest in this scheme. It is our business to see that this interest does not wane, as it assuredly will do if there is any hanging back on our part. In these days everything must go from start to finish. We all know that and must act on that knowledge or go to the bottom. Unfortunately, the decisive Meeting in London is not to be held till October, and we must decide on our course at this Meeting.

That, I think, brings us pretty well down to date, and I will proceed to a discussion of the Resolutions.

No. 1, I hope, requires no argument. There has been no such improvement during the past season as will give us reason for taking our hands from the plough, indeed with Damocles' sword in the shape of valorization coffee hanging over our heads it is even more urgently necessary that we should do all in our power to induce the world to relieve us of some of our superfluity. Brazil being in Frankenstein's dilemma is doing all she can, but in the present scheme she is only trying to push Brazil coffee against the rest, she seems however to be willing to join our more general scheme as well, and if Indian Planters hang back and lie down to be kicked they will deserve all they get.

No. 2 is the most important, as in this I ask you to go straight for a 3-anna cess without any trying to get off cheap ; it really is so trivial this demand of about ½ of a pie per lb. that there should be no hesitation about accepting it. A difference to us or the buyer of less than ½ per cent. is not much of a sprat to throw away when we hope for a herring of about 20 per cent. rise in

3 years. Or let us, if you like to take a more pessimistic view, take it as an insurance against the further fall which must take place if nothing is done. Let there be no mistake about that, consumption is not increasing in equal steps with the increase of production' and a fall is certain unless we can stimulate it. We are not embarking on any wild-cat scheme, other men have done this before us, and if their quick action proves them to be better men, are we going to lie down and cry out that we are not good enough to do what they have done? Is the burden they took on themselves any lighter than I am asking from Coffee Planters, whether European or Native? Had they any more to go on than we have? As a matter of fact, they had not so much.

In the *Madras Mail*, of July 29th, appears a letter signed "Planter" from one of those who want to lie down and be kicked.

If 5*s.* per ton to be spent in trying to help him is going to hasten his extinction, let us make it 10*s.* and get it over quickly, better men will have more room.

He thinks along the narrow line of pushing East India coffee in the United Kingdom, which I have already said I consider impossible. He cannot see that if others more powerful take a line apparently inimical to us we must do all we can to defend ourselves or else join in and so minimise their direct opposition. Are we to sit under their table and hope that a few crumbs may fall for us to lick up? I have heard that hinted at by a Native Planter, but even if we do get some—to go on in the same strain—it will only be crumbs of such food as they eat, whereas we are accustomed to something better and want better, even if we cannot hope for all we used to get. If they raise the price of Brazil to a higher level than we now enjoy, we may come along with them so far, but shall lose any superiority we now possess, and it comes to this —if we do nothing we must look for their leavings or be kicked out of their way

This same "Planter" ignores the fact that Brazil is honestly trying its best to curtail further production and is not likely to remove the prohibitive tax on further extensions in S. Paulo until a very much better statistical position is shown. South American countries are notoriously kittle cattle, but there is no doubt that recent developments have taught Brazil the dangers of her own fertility if driven too hard, and even when a better position arises, the tax will not be removed, though a few men may consider it worth their while to pay it. As for cheapness, we have very good reason to believe that they are making no fortunes; they sell cheap because no one will pay more for their coffee, not because they do not need more. We can see that in the answers to enquiries which were circulated by the United Planters' Association in 1906 (22nd June) when only those from Pernambuco were anything but pessimistic and the reliability of these would seem to be rather vitiated by the one answer that a rise of exchange from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* would have no appreciable effect.

So far perhaps you will say that I have given nothing in the way of solid argument in favour of subscribing the full 3*d.* if there is a chance of getting off cheaper.

Well, it is not easy to go fully into matters without mentioning names and facts contained in private and in some cases confidential correspondence, but I feel myself, and friends in London in a position to judge confirm my fears, that Brazil may refuse to come in on even terms with the rest of the world, as she is doing so much individually, but will most probably offer a definite sum yearly; if she does so it will fall to us smaller fry to make up the deficiency, and we must be ready to do it.

Another reason is that the London scheme is not likely to touch the East for some time, and I attach considerable importance to the development of local or semi-local consumption. This we could attend to gradually with the surplus left after paying the London subscription, this surplus will be £1,000 to £2,000 according to the assistance received from other countries which can be estimated from the replies received in October,

3 to 4.—We cannot wait till next year to settle details of the administration of any funds which may be acquired. The U. P. A. cannot undertake the matter, as it is a special one and will take a good deal of time.

Probably this Meeting will not desire to dictate any methods, but it is advisable that we draw up general Rules for their guidance and the conduct of their business.

No. 5, I think, commends itself so obviously that I shall make no public defence of it. No doubt we may require a little discussion at a later stage.

Now, before I close, I will give a few figures.

According to Messrs. C. J. Leech and Co., the average crops of the world may be taken to run about 16,000,000 bags of 60 kilos, rather more than 1 cwt. Of this we may, I think, eliminate Dutch East Indies 250,000; Africa 150,000; Hayti 400,000; Cuba 100,000. Say in round figures 1,000,000, leaving 15,000,000 bags from which we may possibly receive contributions; but there are many still uncertain, so I would suggest reducing this further still. I would go as far as cutting out the 1,000,000 from the lowest year 1905-06, and hoping for contributions from 13¼ million bags. If we do actually receive this we should only require about ¼*d.* per cwt.

Further back I have stated my opinion that Brazil will not pay the full assessment to this scheme and with reason, and if we cut out her usual 10,000,000 bags and say they only contribute £2,000 it will leave £18,000 to be contributed by 3,250,000 bags or say 1¼*d.* a bag—perhaps even 1½*d.* per cwt. I have deliberately put estimates low, but it is essential that we try to keep safe.

If we have eventually to pay 1½*d.* per cwt. out of our 3*d.* cess we shall only have a little over £1,500 for pushing our coffees in Eastern markets, but we can do a good deal of work with that, and even if our requirements run to 2*d.* as may be the case if my figures are not on the safe side, we can do gradual work with £1,000—and perhaps we can get some grants and subscriptions to eke out that small sum. I certainly think, for instance, that our efforts deserve assistance from the great temperance bodies amongst others.

Deliveries (which I suppose represent consumption) for 5 years past, seem now to run about the same as average crops, but we have a whole year's requirements in stock and the probability, according to past records, of another bumper crop in Brazil in 1911-12, with one good but not bumper crop before that, it must be remembered though that we may get the bumper earlier.

If we can only stimulate consumption to the extent of removing half the existing stock in 2 years, our statistical position will be such, that we may be able to look forward in a much more hopeful manner than has been possible for 5 or 6 years past.

As I said last year, I do not regard the details of my Resolutions as in any way perfect and am quite ready to have them altered in any reasonable manner, but I do ask you to carry out the three main principles of petitioning as soon as possible for a 3-anna cess, of creating at once the machinery for administrating it if granted, and of intimating your intention of developing Eastern as well as Western markets.

Election of Office-bearers.

The following officers were elected for the year 1908-09:—

Chairman.—Mr. J. G. HAMILTON (South Mysore).

Vice-Chairman.—Mr. J. A. RICHARDSON (Travancore).

Secretary.—Mr. ORMEROD.

Messrs. RONALDSON and RONALDSON, of Madras, were re-appointed Auditors.

Memo. of Resolutions.

TELEGRAPH RECEIPTS.

1. That this Association propose that the Director-General in India has his attention called to the very inconvenient new form of telegraph receipts and request that orders shall be issued instructing Postmasters in charge to write on receipts the names of places to which the telegram has been despatched.—*Carried unanimously.*

COMMISSION ON MONEY ORDERS.

2. That this Association again address the Director-General of the Post Office in India and ask him to reduce the Commission on Money Orders to 2 annas for Rs.25; 8 annas for Rs.100; and 4 annas for each subsequent Rs.100.—*Carried unanimously.*

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

3. That this Association call the attention of the Government of Madras to the great variation in the capacity of measures in use and ask that the "Madras Measure" be made the only measure allowed for the obtaining of supplies needed for all departments in the Presidency under their control and that its introduction for use by the general public be more vigorously pushed, this Association promising its support and asking that the Government of Madras use its influence with the neighbouring States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin to induce them to join in bringing into general use the same measure throughout Southern India.—*Carried unanimously.*

THE THENI BRIDGE.

4. That this Association draws the attention of Government to its neglect of repeated representations made that a bridge be constructed across the Theni river in the Madura District, which is of such vital importance to the Planting Districts of Travancore and the inhabitants of the Cumbum Valley, and which was definitely promised by the Collector of Madura as President of the District Board in 1905, but which bridge has since been refused by the District Board.—*Carried unanimously.*

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

5. That this Association draw the attention of the Madura District Board to the state of the road between Veerapandy and Kumbi, which, in spite of appeals made by the Central Travancore Association, is still in a very bad condition.—*Carried unanimously.*

6. That this Association request that Government will re-consider the proposed abandonment of the Atur Ghaut Road in Madura District. —*Carried unanimously.*

EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

"7. That this Association is strongly in sympathy with the declared objects of the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association, but owing to the paucity of information regarding its past history and future possibilities recommends that it should circulate full information as to its constitution to the Associations affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. for their consideration in their own Districts.—*Carried unanimously.*

THE SCIENTIFIC OFFICER SCHEME.

8. That this Association in assuring the Madras Government of an annual subscription of Rs.3,000, and understanding that various Governments have promised another Rs.4,500, for five years, expresses the hope that in view of the urgent necessity for a Scientific Officer no time will be lost in proceeding with his selection.—*Carried unanimously.*

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE U. P. A. S. I.

9. That Rule 1-*b* be altered to read as follows:—"That every District Association be assessed at the rate of 8 pies per acre on the area under cultivation represented by Members of the Association. That a vote shall be given for every Rs.10 subscribed."—*Carried unanimously.*

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

10. That this Association learns with regret that the Governments concerned are unable to proceed with the early construction of the Arsikere-Mangalore line and hopes that this much needed railway will shortly receive the attention it deserves.—*Carried unanimously.*

POPULARIZATION OF COFFEE.

11. That this Association cordially accepts the offer laid before it by Mr. Sanderson and should the support of the different countries named be obtained is prepared to address the Government with the request that, within the limits proposed by Mr. Sanderson, a cess, similar to the Tea Cess, be levied on all coffee exported, and the proceeds devoted to the campaign for the Popularization of Coffee.—*Carried unanimously.*

12. That this Association appoints Messrs. Windle, Williams and Hamilton to be a Committee to draft a petition to the Viceroy praying for the collection for five years of a cess of 3 annas per cwt. on all coffee exported out of the Indian Empire. The said draft to be submitted to this Meeting for approval.—*Carried unanimously.*

13. That in anticipation of our petition being granted, a Committee consisting of (1) The Chairman, U. P. A. S. I. (or Vice-Chairman, if the Chairman be not interested in Coffee); (2) one Member of every recognised Association interested in Coffee (whether affiliated to the U. P. A. S. I. or not); and (3) one Member who is not a Member of any Association from every Coffee District, *i.e.*, North Mysore, South Mysore, Coorg, Nilgiris, Wynaad, Shevaroy Hills, Anamallai Hills, Nelliampathy Hills, Palni Hills and Travancore, be appointed to deal with the funds so obtained on the same lines as the Indian Tea Cess Committee and the Thirty Committee in Ceylon.—*Carried unanimously.*

14. That Messrs. Browne, Pittock and Abbott be appointed to be a Sub-Committee to draft Rules for the conduct of such Committee, the said draft to be submitted to this Meeting for approval.—*Carried unanimously.*

15. That any surplus funds after payment of a proportion to the promoters of the European scheme may be devoted to the development of Eastern markets.—*Carried unanimously.*

MADRAS PLANTERS' LABOUR ACT.

16. That this Association confirm the request of the U. P. A. S. I. that the question of the Amendment of Act I of 1903 be postponed for the present. —*Carried unanimously.*

FISCAL POLICY.

17. That the Chairman's reply to the Hon'ble Mr. M. de P. Webb informing him that this Association will place the matter before local Associations, recommending the adoption of his No. 3 proposal, *i.e.*, a policy of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire.—*Carried.*

THE ANTI-TEA-DUTY LEAGUE.

18. That this Association recommend local Associations to continue support to the Anti-Tea-Duty League, so that it will be in a position to take up the matter of the British Tea Duty again when the time comes.—*Carried unanimously.*

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

19. That this Association, in the face of the refusal of Ceylon to remove the import duty on Tea, do respectfully ask Government to place an equal tax on all Ceylon Tea imported into India.—*Carried unanimously.*

GOVERNMENT CINCHONA CULTIVATION.

20. That this Association make a strong representation to the Government of Madras on the subject of the proposed opening of new lands under

cinchona cultivation and point out that the right course would be to buy the bark it requires for its factory in the Indian Market.—*Carried unanimously.*

PEPPER VINE DISEASE.

21. That the Government of Madras be requested to ask for the services of Dr. E. J. Butler to further investigate the disease from which pepper is suffering in the Wynaad.—*Carried unanimously.*

LIQUOR SHOPS IN THE VICINITY OF ESTATES.

22. That in the event of the explanation not being satisfactory as to why the two liquor shops in Wynaad complained of have been moved back to the sites objected to by neighbouring Planters, the attention of the Board of Revenue be called to the matter and they be asked to take such steps as will prevent a recurrence of similar complaints.—*Carried unanimously.*

23. That the U. P. A. S. I do also address the Governments of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin drawing attention to the complaints made concerning liquor shops in the neighbourhood of estates and urging them to take such steps as will prevent a recurrence of the annoyance.—*Carried unanimously.*

LABOUR RECRUITING AND EMIGRATION.

24. That in consequence of the increasing demand for labour in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements and the facility with which coolies under advance to work in India are able to evade their contracts by emigrating to these countries, great loss is being experienced by Southern Indian Planters and their recruiters. Further it is tending to demoralize the Labour Supply and cause inter-district troubles. That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the whole matter and at as early a date as possible lay before the Council of the U. P. A. S. I. its recommendation as to the best means to be adopted to put a stop to the emigration of advanced labourers to Foreign Countries, with a view to approaching Government on the subject.—*Carried by a majority.*

25. That Messrs. Aylmer Martin, C. H. Browne and H. Waddington be appointed a Committee to carry out Mr. Waddington's resolution (No. 24) with power to add to their number.

That the sum of Rs.50 be voted for the office expenses of this Committee. —*Carried unanimously.*

RESERVE FUND.

26. That Rs.1,000 be invested on fixed deposit for 12 months in the National Bank of India.

That such further sums as may be found available during the year be also invested in the National Bank at the discretion of the Chairman and Secretary. —*Carried unanimously.*

MEETINGS AND CIRCULARS.

27. That it be referred to District Associations to decide that Ex-Chairmen and Ex-Planting Members of Council be allowed to attend Meetings and speak, but not to vote, and also to receive circulars and proceedings while in India if they intimate their wish to the Secretary.—*Carried unanimously.*

VOTE OF THANKS.

28. That this Association tender their warm thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bronson for their kindness in placing a room at the disposal of the Meeting, and the Secretary be requested to write to this effect.—*Carried unanimously.*

AUDITORS.

29. That Messrs. Ronaldson and Ronaldson be appointed Auditors for the ensuing year, and that the fee paid to them be rupees seventy-five. —*Carried unanimously.*

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

South Mysore Planters' Association.

At a Special General Meeting of the South Mysore Planters' Association held in the Munzerabad Club, Saklaspur, on 16th July, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. J. G. H. CRAWFORD (*President*), C. LAKE, CAPT. E. C. FOSTER, C. K. PITTOCK, W. L. CRAWFORD, and R. F. LAMB (*Honorary Secretary*).

Circular convening Meeting was read:—

COFFEE POPULARISATION SCHEME.

The U. P. A. S. I. Circulars relating to this scheme were read and progress made reported.

Resolved—"That ½*d.* per cwt. cess was too little and would not be productive of an amount worthy of collection by Government, and that Delegates to the Annual Meeting of U. P. A. S. I. be empowered to vote in favour of any amount up to 3*d.* per cwt.

DELEGATES TO U. P. A. S. I.

The following gentlemen were appointed Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I.:—Messrs. J. G. H. Crawford, J. G. Hamilton, W. L. Crawford, C. K. Pittock and R. F. Lamb.

DELEGATE TO MYSORE DASARA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. J. G. H. Crawford was appointed to represent this Association at the coming Dasara Representative Assembly.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE DASARA.

Mr. Crawford was instructed to place this Association's views on the following subjects before the Dasara Representative Assembly:—

(1) Popularisation of Coffee Scheme, &c.

(2) Railways.

Mr. Crawford was further given discretion as to his vote for a representative on the Mysore Legislative Council for this part of the Province of Mysore.

AREHULLY HOSPITAL.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to bring before the notice of the Senior Surgeon to the Government of Mysore the need of Hospital Assistants' quarters at the Arehully Hospital. At present it was pointed out that the Hospital Assistant was living in the Hospital Ward as there was not another suitable building within two miles of the Hospital.

FINANCE.

As the cultivated areas of several Estates has been increased since last assessment, it was resolved that a re-assessment on the new returns be enforced from 1909.

ROADS.

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to bring to the notice of the District Engineer, Saklaspur, the unsatisfactory state of the Ossoor-Arehully road between miles 0—2.

RODERICK F. LAMB.
Honorary Secretary, S. M. P. A.

North Mysore Planters' Association.

Quarterly General Meeting held at Balehonnur on the 3rd August, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. C. H. BROWNE (*President*), L. P. KENT, W. P. ALLARDICE, R. G. FOSTER, F. W. HIGHT, C. S. CRAWFORD, H. G. BONNER, W. H. LINCOLN, E. W. FOWKE, H. M. NORTHEY, and C. P. REED (*Honorary Secretary*).

50 *Yards Rule.*—The Chairman said:—"At our Annual General Meeting held on the 10th March last, a Committee was appointed to meet the Conservator of Forests, Mr. Muthannah, he having most considerately accepted our invitation to meet us at Balehonnur and discuss our grievances with regard to the 50 yards rule. Our main reasons for praying Government to repeal this rule are—

(1) That it hampers extension. With the price of coffee at £50 a ton, we must produce more to make a living than when it was £100 a ton. The ryot who formerly cultivated 10 acres now requires 20 acres to make the same profit, and the cultivator of 100 acres requires 150.

(2) In North Mysore where streams are to be counted in tens of thousands it is difficult to find a piece of land suitable for coffee, without a stream in it.

(3) That in the forest tracts of Mysore, only a comparatively small portion of the land is suitable for coffee cultivation, therefore, there can be no question of denudation. No man standing on the top of any of our hills, seeing as he does, the vast tracts of jungle stretching away on either side, as far as the eye can reach, can honestly say that anything has been done by planters to affect the conservation of the rainfall. It takes a practised eye to detect a Coffee Estate amongst the surrounding masses of forest, excepting, perhaps, sometimes in the dry weather when the deep green of the evergreen shade trees in the Coffee Estates stand out in striking contrast to the burnt and leafless jungles."

(4) We further maintain that the cultivation of coffee, as carried out in Mysore, is the best means of conserving the rainfall. The tilled soil is protected by a layer of mulch, over this a thick mass of coffee, and above all tower the evergreen forest trees. There is no wash, and consequently every drop of rain that falls is absorbed by the soil. We positively assert as the result of many years experience and careful study of the subject, that the flow of water in the streams increases and is more regular and continuous when land is under coffee cultivation than when it is under jungle.

Nothing definite was settled at the Meeting. Mr. Muthannah gave us a patient hearing and was most sympathetic. He accepted our statement that coffee cultivation did increase the flow of water in the streams during the dry season. He pointed out the difficulties which stood in the way of cancelling the rule and promised to do his best for us. We trust that at an early date, perhaps at the Dasara Assembly, Government may see its way to announce the relaxation of the rule.

I may mention that we showed Mr. Muthannah a survey map of a block of land, recently acquired by a Member of this Association, which, after the surveyors had demarcated 50 yards on each side of the streams, there was left a piece of land, over half a mile in length and less than a hundred yards in width, which for the purpose of coffee cultivation is useless.

Dr. Lehmann.—Resolved, "That this Association deplores the retrograde policy of the Mysore Government with regard to agriculture by which the services of Dr. Lehmann are lost to the Province. It desires to place on record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the planting industry by Dr. Lehmann."

Roads and Bridges.—Resolved, (1) "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Executive Engineer drawing his attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the following roads, *viz.*, the Moodigeri-Kotigaharra section of the Chickmaglur-Mangalore road. The Thadasa-Tarikere road particularly miles 8, 9, 14 and 15. The Kotigaharra-Kalasa road miles 5 to 10. The Aldur Balehonnur section of the Wastara-Koppa road, this last section has been neglected for some years past and is going from bad to worse; seeing the excellent condition in which the Balehonnur-Koppa section of the same road is maintained, it is obvious that the upkeep allowance is ample when the money is properly spent.

(2) That owing to the streams on the Yedahallu-Margoondy and Balehole-Margoondy roads remaining unbridged; the bridge at Margoondy is practically closed to traffic for the monsoon months.

(3) That copies of this resolution be sent to the Superintending and Executive Engineers."

Postal Service.—READ letter from Postmaster-General No. 2585, dated 10th April, 1908, regarding acceleration of Mail Services—Resolved, (1) "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Postmaster-General thanking him for the careful consideration he has given our complaint.

(2) It is evident that at present it is not possible to improve the service to Chickmaglur.

(3) It is not advisable to alter the existing arrangement for despatch of Mails from Wastara to Balehonnur and Sallebile."

Arrack and Toddy Shops. - READ letters from Mr. Courpalais *in re* Arrack and Toddy Shops on his Sampigu Estate—Resolved, (1) "That this Association regrets that Government has not acceded to Mr. Courpalais' request to remove the Arrack and Toddy Shops from his Sampigu Estate, and that the licenses for the current year have been sold without any intimation to Mr. Courpalais.

(2) That the Honorary Secretary write to the Excise Commissioner requesting him to remove the Arrack and Toddy shops in question from Mr. Courpalais' private land to the village of Thunigeebile."

Sanderson Ward.—READ letter from Deputy Commissioner No. 1566, dated 28th May, 1908, requesting that a Representative be elected to the governing body.

Resolved.—(1) "That voting papers be sent to members for the election of a Representative to the governing body."

(2) "That Messrs. Bonner and Danvers be requested to draft amended rules in conjunction with the S. M. P. A. and submit the same to Government for its approval."

Dilatoriness of the Registration Department.—READ letter from the Inspector-General of Registration No. 2978-79, dated 29th June, 1908, *in re* complaint in the *Madras Mail.* Resolved—"That the Inspector-General of Registration be informed that no complaints have been made to this Association, and it is unaware where the particular incident in question happened."

U. P. A. S. I. Agenda and Delegate.—Mr. C. H. Browne was elected to represent this Association at the forthcoming Meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Honorary Secretary brought the Meeting to a close.

(Signed) C. P. REED,
Honorary Secretary.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held 5th August at Meppadi Club.

Present:—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott, Messrs. H. Atzenwiler, S. K. Bousfield, C. F. Ewart, D. Mackenzie, B. Malcolm, W. Mackinlay, S. H. Powell (*Junior*), A. Trollope, G. H. Welchman, A. West, and H. Waddington (*Honorary Secretary*).

In the Chair.—Mr. B. Malcolm.

Proceedings of the last Meeting were confirmed.

1378. *New Members.*—Messrs. S. K. Bousfield, C. F. Ewart, Ferguson and Company and The East Indian Tea and Produce Company were duly elected Members.

General Correspondence.—Read and confirmed.

1379. *Destitute Coolies.*—No answer has been received to the letter from Honorary Secretary to Deputy Collector asking for further particulars.

1380. *Tea Passes.*—Read letter from District Superintendent of Police, North Malabar, informing the Association "The system of Tea Passes is now in force throughout the Wynaad." Recorded with satisfaction.

Books of Tea Pass forms are now obtainable from Messrs. Peirce, Leslie and Company, Calicut.

1381. *Tea Stealing.*—Mr. Abbott reported a case, in which 36 lbs. of Orange Pekoe had been stolen from 4 half chests and 36 lbs. Broken Orange Pekoe from 3 half chests, shipped per *S. S. Clan Mackay*. The weights were checked in Calicut and the loss only discovered on arrival in London, when linings were found cut, although the chests were in perfectly good order.

1382. *Police Reward Fund.*—Subscriptions to this now amount to Rs.250, Members subscribing confirmed their promises which are to remain open till 31st December, 1909.

1383. *Roads No.* 38, *Chundale-Sholadi.*—Read letters from Honorary Secretary and reply dated 22nd July from President of the District Board informing Association work on the first section (Chundale-Meppadi) should be put in hand at once. The metal, however, has not yet been spread.

1384. *Roads No.* 35-B, *Sultan's Battery, Nilgiri Frontier.*—Very little work has been done on this road, and with exception of the part metalled last year it is in very bad order, much overgrown with jungle and all the bridges unsafe. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write asking President of District Board if the metal collected cannot be spread before the rains cease.

1385. *Act I of* 1903, *Madras Planters' Labour Law.*—By Government Order No. 857 of 19th June, 1908, Mr. H. B. Winterbotham has been authorized to attest execution of contracts made under the Act.

1386. *Registers of Contracts executed.*—Read Government Order No. 953 of 13th July, 1908, regretting that Government do not see their way to introduce compulsory keeping of registers of contracts entered into under Act I of 1903 by persons authorized to attest them. Recorded.

1387. *Liquor Shops in vicinity of Estates.*—Read letter from Honorary Secretary to Collector of Malabar. Approved. The Honorary Secretary to bring the matter to notice of the United Planters' Association.

1388. *Ceylon Recruitment of Labour.*—Read letters from Mr. Norman Rowsell, Ceylon Labour Commissioner, with reference to complaints made at last Meeting and reply from Honorary Secretary.

1389. *United Planters' Association of Southern India.*—

Finance.—Members, after considering the financial position of the Wynaad Association, decided that the delegate be instructed to promise subscription to the U.P.A.S.I. on the basis of 11,400 acres under cultivation.

Popularization of Coffee.—Members of the Association would support the scheme of a cess if compulsory and not exceeding 3*d.* per cwt.

Madras Planters' Labour Act.—Proposed by H. Waddington.

'That if the delegate be asked to support amendments to the Act he be instructed to reiterate the opinion of the Association that the Act should be withdrawn from Wynaad."

Amendment proposed by Mr. B. Malcolm and seconded by Mr. A. Trollope.

" That in the event of the question of the retention or otherwise of the Act coming up at Meeting, our delegate state that the matter would have to be referred to the Association for decision."

For amendment 2 against 8. For resolution 8 against 2. *Carried.*

Scientific Officer.—Subcriptions from this Association now amount to Rs.630. Association is not in favour of the scheme being put on an acreage basis at present.

Pepper Vine Disease.—The delegate was asked to press for further Government assistance.

1390. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. S. I. Circulars Nos. 37 to 39.
I. T. A. Circulars Nos. 10, 11, 29 to 32.
I. T. Cess Committee Circulars Nos. 215-216.
Tea Statistics, May and June.
Oil Emulsion for spraying Tea.
Fiscal Autonomy.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) B. MALCOLM,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

New Member.—Mr. J. H. Wapshare will be balloted for at next Meeting.

Next Meeting.—9th September.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held at Puthutotum Bungalow, Valparai P.O., on Wednesday, the 12th of August, 1908, *at 2-30 p. m.*

Present:—MESSRS. E. G. WINDLE, G. A. MARSH, G. L. DUNCAN, E. W. SIMCOCK, J. R. VINCENT, C. H. BROCK, G. B. WALLACE, H. W. DESALIS, F. C. F. LUSHINGTON, R. F. LUSHINGTON, and C. R. T. CONGREVE (*Honorary Secretary*).

Mr. Windle was voted to the Chair.

The proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read.

The following gentlemen were elected as Members of the Association :—

Messrs. Simcock, Wallace, Brock, F. C. F, Lushington and R. F. Lushington,

The Honorary Secretary then read his Report for the last year, which ran as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of laying before you the Report for the past year, and submit for your approval the accounts, which I trust you will find in order.

Very little of importance has occurred since our last Annual Meeting, and I shall therefore be as brief as possible and shall only touch on a few of the most important matters.

Leases.—Another year has gone past, and we seem to be no nearer getting our title-deeds. This subject is on the agenda paper for discussion, and I think the time has come for us to take some very strong action about the matter, as it is scandalous that after 11 years occupation we should still be without our leases.

Prevention of Coffee Thefts.—At a Committee Meeting held on the 10th of March, I was instructed to communicate with the District Superintendent of Police with a view to seeing whether the continued thefts could not be checked. I wrote to him on the 19th March, asking for his help and advice, and again on June 25th and July 21st without receiving any answer. I then wrote to the Deputy Inspector-General asking him to interest himself in the matter, as it appeared to be impossible to even get an acknowledgment of the receipt of my letters from the District Superintendent. I have now received an answer from the Deputy Inspector-General saying that he will enquire into the matter. As you are all aware, the thefts of Coffee between the Estates and Curing Works in Coimbatore were carried on on a very large scale last year, and it is absolutely necessary that we should put a stop to it somehow.

Roads and Communications.—With regard to Government's programme for further branch roads, although traces were put in, and estimates rendered, Government now decline to make them and it behoves the unfortunate Planters left without means of communication to their Estates to either cut the roads themselves, or else to abandon their properties. Government have thought fit to start a toll-gate at the foot of the ghât. This came as a great surprise to us all, as Government originally promised the roads as an inducement to Planters to take up land here, and I believe I voice the general opinion when I say that considering the exceptionally heavy taxes we are called upon to pay, we had a right to think that no toll-gates would be put on the road..

I think something ought to be done to induce the Local Fund, or whoever is responsible for the upkeep, to put the main road from Coimbatore to the foot of the ghât in better repair. The road has been getting steadily worse during the past 2 years, and there are constant complaints from those that have to use it.

Labour.—There have been complaints from many of our maistries this year that their advanced labour has been induced, through the offer of larger advances by European recruiters and others to go to Wynaad, Travancore, Cochin and Ceylon. The Wynaad Association are bringing the matter of enticing away of advanced labour by Ceylon recruiters before the U. P. A. S. I., but it seems to me that the recruiting for the Wynaad, Travancore and Cochin is much more serious, and that some measures ought to be taken to stop it.

Cinchona.—From a leading article dated the 21st July, in the *Madras Mail*, it would appear that Government contemplate further extensions of their Cinchona plantations on the Nilgiris. I think we ought to vigorously protest against these extensions, as even with their present plantations Government appear to be unable to absorb all the bark offered to them locally. I have asked the Secretary of the U. P. A. S. I. to put the matter on the Agenda Paper of the Annual General Meeting, and I trust we may be able to get them to help

us to put a stop to both the contemplated extensions and also to the purchase of foreign bark.

U. P. A. S. I.—The Agenda Paper of the Annual General Meeting comes up for discussion before you to-day. The chief items of interest to us appear to be the scheme for the popularization of coffee, and the increased subscriptions to the U. P. A. S. I. We have already agreed, I believe, to both of these, provided they are universally accepted and are assessed on an acreage basis.

As you are aware one of our oldest residents, Mr. Vincent, is leaving us for another District, and I feel sure you will all join with me in wishing him every success and prosperity in his new District.

Accounts.—These are laid on the table. They have been audited and show a balance of Rs.310-3-6 cash in hand. Accounts in connection with the Minor Forest Produce Fund have not been made up as I am waiting for sale receipts from the Anapura works. They will be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible. I now place my resignation with that of the Committee in your hands.

C. R. T. CONGREVE,

Honorary Secretary.

Mr. Duncan proposed, and Mr. Marsh seconded, "that the Report and Accounts be adopted and passed."—*Carried.*

Roads and Communications.—It was resolved that the attention of the President of the District Board be called to the unsatisfactory state of the road between Coimbatore and the foot of the hills.

Mr. Windle said he would approach the Collector of Coimbatore with a view to being allowed to attend Board Meetings whenever any subject dealing with the Anamalais was brought up.

Leases.—The Honorary Secretary read letter to the Collector asking for a speedy issue of leases and reply to same in which it was announced that the matter was receiving attention. The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. Duncan, and seconded by Mr. Windle:—

"That this Association regrets that no definite answer has yet been received and requests the Honorary Secretary to again address the Collector, asking that, in view of the great delay that has occurred, a definite reply may be sent as soon as possible."—*Carried unanimously.*

Cinchona.—Mr. Marsh proposed, and Mr. Simcock seconded, "that a strong protest be sent to Government against further extensions of their Cinchona plantations, on the purchase of foreign bark." This was carried, and it was resolved that the U. P. A. S. I. be requested to lay the matter before Government.

U. P. A. S. I.—Subscriptions.—The Meeting agreed to the proposal to raise the subscriptions to 8 pies per acre on cultivation.

Scientific Officer's Scheme.—It was agreed to subscribe Rs.60 per annum for 5 years towards this scheme.

The Delegate was instructed to use his discretion in dealing with all other subjects brought up at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

(Signed) E. G. WINDLE,

Chairman.

(Signed) C. R. T. CONGREVE,

Honorary Secretary.

INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

Extracts from the Fifth Annual Report, being that for the year ended 31st March, 1908.

Export Bonus on Green Tea.

The rules in accordance with which the bonus on green tea was given for the year 1907-08 were quoted in the last Annual Report. It was also stated there that 2,246,800 lbs. of green tea had been tendered by producers in consideration of the bonus. Of this quantity claims on account of 1,394,591 lbs. have been paid.

The question of continuing the bonus was discussed at the half-yearly Meeting of the Cess Committee held on the 24th February, 1908. It was then resolved that a bonus at the rate of six pies per pound should be offered on two million pounds of tea to be manufactured and exported during the year ended 31st March, 1909.

Indian Tea in India.

In their last Report the Committee gave an outline of an experiment which they were promoting, with the object of ascertaining whether there is a reasonable chance of large quantities of tea being sold in India. The experiment was one whereby a selected tract of country would be so systematically worked as to ensure good tea being brought within the reach of all classes of the population. Messrs. Lyall, Marshall & Co., the agents of the Indian Tea Supply Co., Ld., undertook to conduct the operations, and they estimated the cost for one year at about Rs.14,670. The scheme was to be confined to a tract of country about 100 miles square in extent bounded on the north by Dinajpur, on the west by Rajmehal, on the south by Rampur Boalia, and on the east by Bogra. Work in this area has now been in progress for some months, but it is not yet possible to say to what extent the experiment is likely to be successful, or what conclusions can be drawn from it. The whole question of popularising tea in India is surrounded by so many difficulties that it would be a mistake to expect striking results. But if the experiment eventually shows that more extensive operations might profitably be undertaken, the object which the Committee have in view will have been achieved.

Indian Tea in Europe.

The scheme which was instituted in 1905 for promoting the sale of Indian tea in Europe has continued to make progress during the past year. It is under the control of Mr. J. E. M. Harington, who has his head-quarters at Antwerp. Depôts for the sale of Tea have been opened at Hamburg, Hanover and Berlin; and advantage is taken of Exhibitions, and other similar opportunities for bringing Indian tea to notice. Newspaper advertising is also carried on to some extent, and is supported by demonstrations in various towns. On the whole, the Cess Committee believe that good work is being done; but the scheme has not been in operation for a sufficiently long time for its progress to be shown by statistics.

It was mentioned in the last Report that a second scheme for work in Europe was under consideration. This was put forward by the London Committee of the Indian Tea Association, and was in the nature of a subsidy of ½*d.* per lb. to be given to selected distributors. A sum of £3,000 was to be spent in this way and it was estimated that the consumption of tea on the Continent would be increased by about 1½ million lbs. The Executive Committee approved of the scheme generally, but they considered that it would not be satisfactory unless its conditions were such that the increase would be actual. For if the subsidised firms enlarged their business at the expense of other sellers of Indian tea, or if they amalgamated with existing houses, they would not necessarily increase the imports. With this criticism the London Committee of the Indian Tea Association were disposed to agree, and the project was not proceeded with. In place of it, proposals which were put forward by Mr,

Harington for the extension of his scheme, were considered. His idea was that the most effective way of drawing immediate attention to Indian tea in Germany would be the establishment of a tea house in Berlin. He pointed out that there were no well-appointed tea rooms in the city; and he believed that if such could be established they would be very successful. He submitted estimates of the cost together with detailed proposals. The London Committee of the Indian Tea Association favoured the scheme. They thought it was a practical project which would make tea drinking in Germany more fashionable. The Executive Committee were of the same opinion; and they accordingly authorised Mr. Harington to open the tea house. The sum of £3,000, which has been already referred to, was granted to him for the purpose. He made immediate arrangements in Berlin, and obtained suitable premises in a fashionable locality—the Leipzigerstrasse. The new tea house was opened on the 6th April, 1908, and has so far been very successful. It is frequented by large numbers of visitors, both German and foreign, and it will be, the Cess Committee believe, an excellent advertisement for Indian tea in Germany. The rooms are handsomely furnished, well fitted, and suitably decorated. Indian waiters are employed, and good quality Indian tea is sold in the cup at moderate prices. Packet tea is also on sale, and the special attention of visitors is drawn to it.

At the Meeting of the Cess Committee held on the 24th February, 1908, the whole question of the campaign on the Continent was reviewed and discussed. The enlargement of the scope of Mr. Harington's operations was unanimously approved of; and it was resolved to place sufficient funds at his disposal, to enable him to maintain the enlarged scheme during the current year. A sum of £5,000 was accordingly set aside for the purpose. Of this amount £2,000 was for the original scheme in Belgium and Germany; and £3,000 for the Berlin tea house, and such other developments as might be possible.

It may now, the Cess Committee think, be fairly claimed that work on the Continent in behalf of Indian tea has been well begun. Rapid progress is hardly to be anticipated, as the taste for tea has to be created. But there are indications that, in Germany at any rate, a considerable measure of success may be ultimately expected. Belgium likewise appears to be a promising field. Indian tea may also, it is believed, be eventually popularised to some extent in Sweden; and Mr. Harington will probably proceed to Stockholm during the current year to make investigations. France, Holland and Poland are other European countries to which attention might be perhaps profitably devoted, and the question of commencing operations in each or all of them will be considered as soon as funds permit.

Indian Tea in America

It is now five years since the Cess Committee began the work of popularising Indian tea in the United States. During the past twelve months their scheme, which is worked jointly with Ceylon, has been carried on in the territory around St. Louis. Mr. Richard Blechynden still directs operations, and his recently published Report shows clearly the extent of his activities. The amount expended yearly on the joint account is £12,000, contributed in the proportion of four-sevenths by India and three-sevenths by Ceylon. The methods of work have been so fully described by Mr. Blechynden as to make a detailed reference to them here unnecessary. They appear, however, to be successful, as there has been a continuous expansion of the imports of British grown teas to the United States and Canada during the past few years. This fact has been established by statistics which Mr. Blechynden has been able to compile. It was mentioned in the last Report that he was endeavouring to procure accurate statistical information He found the task a difficult one, but eventually he succeeded in obtaining the figures from a number of different sources They showed that the imports of Indian and Ceylon teas into North America have increased from nearly 12¼ million lbs. in 1898 to upwards of 37¼ million lbs. in 1907. In the former year they represented 13·4 per cent.

of the import of all teas, but by 1907 the percentage had risen to 33·3. Taking the United States alone, the imports of British grown teas had grown from close upon 7 million lbs. in 1898 to more than 16¼ millions in 1907. Although these figures do not exhibit any particularly rapid increase, they prove that real and substantial progress is being made. And this too in face of the fact that the imports of tea generally into the United States have not of late evinced any tendency to expand.

Not only do the Cess Committee contribute to the Joint Indian and Ceylon Fund, but they also allot yearly to Mr. Blechynden a further amount for expenditure on behalf of Indian teas only Hitherto, this fund has been devoted to work in the Eastern States of the Union, but in August last the question of opening out new territory was considered. It was the opinion of the Indian Tea Association (London), after consultation with Mr. Blechynden, that operations should be begun in some of the more westerly States. With this view the Executive Committee were in agreement, provided the work could be of a permanent character. But before coming to any conclusion, they agreed to await the orders of the Government of India as to the continuance of the Cess for a further period of five years. For it seemed to them that if the Cess were coming to an end, the best plan would be to go on with the work in the Eastern States. If on the other hand it were to be continued, a beginning might, they thought, be made in the proposed new territory. As is stated in another part of this Report, the Government of India decided to renew the Cess; and the Executive Committee thereupon instructed Mr. Blechynden to begin operations in Colorado and the neighbouring States. The Cess Committee agreed with this decision, and at their Meeting held on the 24th February, 1908, they voted a further sum of £4,000 for expenditure during the year ending 31st March, 1909. Mr. Blechynden has already begun work in the States of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Colorado, following the same plan as he has adopted in the case of the Joint Indian and Ceylon Fund.

Indian Tea in Tibet.

The Committee regret to have to record that very little progress has been made in the direction of extending the sale of Indian tea in Tibet. They stated in their last Report that they had commissioned Mr. A. C. R. deRighi, of Darjeeling, who was visiting Tibet, to report to them upon the prospects of the tea trade. Mr. deRighi, after spending some time in the country, reported early in September. He pointed out that Gyantse was unsuitable for a trade mart, and that the bulk of the business was transacted either at Lhassa or Shigatse, which were closed to Europeans. He also alluded to the deficient transport arrangements between India and Tibet, and to the need for a good road. Indian brick tea would, he believed, eventually be bought by the Tibetans, as it could compete with the Chinese product both as to price and quality. But the appointment of an agent was essential, if success were to be hoped for. Mr. deRighi also emphasised the necessity for attention being paid to details of packing, so that the Indian bricks might resemble the Chinese article as closely as possible.

Subsequently, the Committee arranged with Messrs. Dhirajlal Natwarlal Brothers & Co., a Surat firm, with a branch at Gyantse, to act as their agents. In order to minimise the risk to any producers who might take up the business, they agreed to be responsible for the cost price of consignments of tea delivered at Gyantse. The suppliers would do the business direct with the firm mentioned, and would take any profit which might ultimately accrue on the transaction. But if the bricks were sold at a loss, or were not sold at all, the producers would be permitted to draw upon the Cess Fund for the cost price. Two consignments of bricks are being sent up to Tibet on these conditions, and the Committee are now awaiting the result of the experiment. In the meantime the revised trade regulations between the British and the Chinese authorities have been published, but the Committee are not prepared at the moment to indicate to what extent the tea trade will be affected thereby.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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The U. P. A. S. I.

INCORPORATED.

Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.

The Secretary to the Government of Madras, P. W. D. (Railway), writes as follows, under date the 18th August, 1908:—

"In acknowledging the receipt of your letter quoted above, I am directed to inform you that Government fully recognizes the importance of providing an outlet by railway to the West Coast for the produce of the planting districts, but in view of its high initial cost, the heavy expense of maintenance, and the fact that it would not be likely to pay its way for many years, regrets that the Arsikere-Mangalore Railway project cannot be assigned a place in the Imperial Programme."

Telegraph Receipts.

The Director-General of Telegraphs writes that, "to meet the convenience of the public telegraph offices have been instructed to supply receipt forms beforehand, on application, to admit of senders of telegrams entering whatever particulars they wish to before handing in their messages for despatch. This plan is being followed elsewhere and is found to suit very well."

Commission on Money Orders.

The Director-General of the Post Office in India regrets that he is unable to recommend the Government of India to make any reduction in the rates of Commission on inland money orders.

The Theni Bridge.

The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, to whom the resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting was communicated, replied that the Madura District Board should be addressed direct. This has been done.

The Scientific Officer Scheme.

The Government of Madras has referred this matter to the Government of India 'for such action as that Government may deem fit."

The *Malay Mail* states that Mr. H. C. Pratt, Government Entomologist, has been transferred from the Institute for Medical Research to the staff of the Director of Agriculture and will devote himself chiefly to the continuation of his investigation into the life history of the "termes gestroi," or "white ant," its attacks on the rubber tree and the best methods of prevention and cure.

Among the exhibits sent by the Java Government to the Rubber Show in London is an album containing a description of the Government gutta-percha plantation at Cjipetir. The Government, alarmed by the reckless manner in which the natives in Sumatra and Borneo worked the gutta-percha forests there, started this plantation in 1900 with an area of several hundreds of acres. The album contains detailed particulars of soil, climate, production, and methods of cultivation. It is expected it will be the means of leading British and German capitalists to invest more money in that line of cultivation in Java.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on Monday, 7th September, 1908.

Present:—MESSRS. J. C. LARGE, C. DICKINS, W. RAHM, S. CAMPBELL, REV. DANIEL, MESSRS. F. D. SHORT, C. G. LECHLER, and B. CAYLEY (*Chairman and Honorary Secretary*).

1. *Passing of Accounts.*—The Accounts showing a balance in hand of Rs.95-7-8, after paying our delegates' expenses and subscriptions to the U. P. A. S. I. for 1908-09, were passed.

2. *Honorary Secretary's Report.*—The Honorary Secretary made his Report for the past year's work.

3. *U. P. A. S. I. Delegate's Report.*—Proposed by Mr. Cayley, seconded by Mr. F. D. Short, that Mr. Windle's Report be included in the proceedings, printed and circulated amongst members of this Association, and that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded him for his interesting and instructive report. —*Carried.*

4. *Election of Committee.*—Mr. Chas. Dickins having kindly consented to carry on the work of the Association for the next three months, the meeting proceeded to elect a Committee for the year ending 1908-09 and the following were elected:—

Messrs. W. Rahm, F. D. Short, J. C. Large, S. M. Hight, C. Rahm, C. G. Lechler, Rev. Rochet, and Chas. Dickins (*Chairman and Honorary Secretary*).

5. *Vote of Thanks.*—Proposed by Mr. S. Campbell and seconded by Rev. Daniel that a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Cayley for carrying on the duties of Honorary Secretary during the past year.—*Carried.*

CHAS. DICKINS,
Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF DELIGATE TO THE

U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, 1908.

To

THE HON. SECY., SHEVAROY PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

DEAR SIR,

I much regret that I shall not be able to attend the meeting called for September 7th, so forward the following report of the U. P. A. S. I. meeting. I will take first the subjects in which I was specially instructed:—

4-*a. Import Duties on Seeds.*—This was dropped, as being useless.

5. *Finance.*—A subscription of 8 pies per acre on cultivated area was generally agreed to, though one Association, not being able to send a delegate to the meeting, has not given its final consent, which, however, there is reason to expect. The total area taxed is 92,443 acres, and subscriptions promised amount to Rs.3,851-12-8, both of these figures being probably increased to some extent on hearing definitely from the Association referred to. This will give an increase of Rs.1,300 to Rs.1,500 over last year's subscriptions. A dividend paid by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., of Rs.908-12-0, has materially assisted our funds and it was resolved to again commence the formation of a Reserve Fund, to which the Secretary was instructed to pay in Rs.1,000 . . . I should mention that the Shevaroy subscription for 1908-09 is Rs.187-8-0 calculated on 4,500 acres.

6-*a*. *Popularization of Coffee.*—You will have seen full reports in the papers of the scheme brought forward by Mr. J. G. Hamilton and seconded by your delegate. It is a compulsory cess, collected by a Government tax of 3 annas (or 3*d*.) per cwt. on all coffee exported for 5 years. No Association favoured less than 3 annas and one was in favour of 6 annas but Rs.75 on every 20 tons exported can hurt no one and will, it is estimated, produce some Rs.3,000 as India's share towards a Popularization of Coffee Campaign. The details are to be settled by a very comprehensive Committee, each Association contributing one member, and also each district a member representing those who do not belong to the District Association. This latter point would be easily carried out by Honorary Secretaries of Local Associations addressing two or three prominent non-members, asking them to convene a meeting and elect their own representative. You will see that Mr. Hamilton's resolution proposed that the Committee should be elected "*in anticipation of our petition to the Viceroy being granted*," so the matter should be dealt with at once. The petition to the Viceroy was drafted and approved at Bangalore, and has no doubt been forwarded to Government by now.

6-*e*. *E. I. Quotations of Coffee.*—This was discussed, but as the least cost for a weekly quotation for six months of the year would be Rs.125, whilst opinion was divided as to whether the Rio quotation was not a better standard in any case, the meeting decided not to press the matter further.

9-*b*. *Scientific Officer.*—This scheme seems now to be nearing realization. Subscriptions promised through the U. P. A. S. I amount to Rs.3,020, and the Mysore, Coorg, Travancore and Cochin Governments have subscribed Rs.4,500, so we may expect that the Madras Government will make up the necessary difference.

15 *and* 16. *Labour Recruiting and Crimping.*—A resolution was brought forward by Wynaad, "That this Association do enquire into the question of cooly recruiting for Ceylon and the Straits Settlements," but during the ensuing discussion ample evidence was forthcoming of interference with labour by and amongst ourselves also. A Committee was therefore appointed to deal with the subject, and its resolution was a proposition to refer the question to a further Committee, which should enquire into the matter and advise the U. P. A. S. I. Council, as soon as possible, "as to the best means to be adopted to put a stop to the emigration of advanced labourers to foreign countries, with a view to approaching Government on the subject." It did not seem to me that deferring all action in this way was advisable, whilst the proposed advice, or recommendation, was not, apparently, to touch upon troubles caused by ourselves. The subject had been notified for consideration in the Agenda paper by, I believe, Wynaad; it could hardly be a foreign one to planters, and it was, and is, as we all know—many of us from expensive experience—and as was amply testified at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, a matter, the seriousness of which has become very greatly intensified during the past year. A Committee would doubtless be required, but I thought that the U. P. A. S. I. might, in the first place, ascertain, if possible, to what extent, if any, Ceylon and the Straits would work with us, whilst an appeal to our District Associations would pave the way for further action. I, therefore, brought forward an amendment, "That the U. P. A. S. I. address the Central Association of the Straits and Ceylon and also the South Indian District Associations, pointing out the increasing and inevitable friction which is arising from the recruiting of labour being confined to such a limited area in South India, and the practical certainty that this must result in the further raising of advances and rates of pay, and requesting them to consider whether the present area of recruiting cannot be considerably extended, or the Indian Government approached with a view to legislation for further regulating, recruiting and preventing the crimping of labour." The amendment was lost by 170 votes against 107 and, the original resolution being carried, a Committee was appointed to give it effect. I was asked to make one of this Committee but was obliged to refuse, as I

could not give the necessary time to the work and, having a good deal of travelling to do, correspondence frequently takes several days in reaching me. I trust that my action in the matter meets with your approval, and I will add, as a member of this Association, that I hope all members will do their utmost to give fully and promptly the information which the Committee will ask for. It is often said that a maistry's statement is no evidence, but a maistry can make a sworn statement which will be evidence, and I would point out that a maistry's evidence was taken by the Ceylon Labour Commission which has recently been sitting. It is obviously impossible that the European planter can be himself on the spot whilst his labour is being crimped.

With reference to other subjects:

Labour Act.—Government was asked to postpone further amendments of this Act for the present. One of the two districts to which it has been applied is in favour of the Act being withdrawn, as amendments which would make it workable have been refused.

Dr. Lehmann gave an interesting lecture, unfortunately his last, and was heartily thanked for his many services to planters.

Fiscal Autonomy in India was spoken to by Mr. J. G. Hamilton: it was considered that the subject being foreign to planters to a great extent, required more notice than had been given, and that it should be discussed by local Associations. In the meantime, the U. P. A. S. I. recommended to them "a policy of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire," as against the present Government policy of free trade.

Ex-Chairmen and Delegates being non-voting members of the U. P. A. S. I. This was brought up by an ex-Chairman, and was referred to district associations for their opinion. It was pointed out that, as it was, the time had to be carefully utilized and that if double the number were entitled to speak, the meeting would probably have to be extended over another two days.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. G. WINDLE.

Mr. Carruthers' estimate at the close of 1907 for Rubber planted in the Malay States is 126,235 acres out of 261,763 altogether under cultivation.

In Java, rubber is being grown on mountainous plantations—up to an altitude of 4,000 ft.—as much as on the plain. It is difficult to say at present how successful this enterprise will be, as all the rubber is still young, and no tapping has been commenced. The chief varieties of rubber grown in Java are the *Ficus Elastica and Hevea Brasiliensis*, and the latter seems to thrive exceedingly well. Some parts of the country are not suitable for rubber-growing owing to the swampy nature of the land.

In the *Times of Ceylon* a South Indian Planter gives some of his experiences in respect to attempts to keep down weeds and to stop the loss of "top soil." He refers to Mimosa as having given trouble because of its poisonous thorn, which inflicted wounds on twenty-five per cent. of the coolies employed. Further, Mimosa grew very thick and, when cut, the bulk was huge; to bury it would cost Rs.10 an acre or more, while on the surface it increases the risk of fire. This planter writes:—

> "I am trying cucumbers, but would prefer a nitrogenous plant, if possible; but, failing this, I should like to meet the man who can put one on to some sort of bean which would be saleable in large quantities, so that we could save our soil and make a living whilst the rubber is on the grow; and also save a fortune over weeding."

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extracts from Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 25th August, 1908.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters dated 31st July and 7th August, 1908, from Sir James Buckingham, Secretary, Indian Tea Association (London), were brought up for disposal after previous circulation. The principal subjects dealt with in these letters were :—

(*a*) *Exports of Tea from Northern India to Ceylon.*—This question, which was last referred to in the proceedings of the Meeting held on 14th July, was mentioned by Sir James Buckingham in his letter dated 31st idem.

The Calcutta Committee had made enquiries with the object of ascertaining the ultimate destination of the teas exported from Northern India to Colombo. During last year upwards of six million lbs. had been thus shipped to Ceylon, and no information was obtainable as to the ports to which it was finally despatched. Correspondence which passed between the Association and the Collector of Customs at Colombo had elicited the fact that no record of transhipment is kept at that port. The London Committee of the Association thought that it was unfortunate that this should be so; and they mentioned the procedure followed in London in regard to transhipments. From the statement which they made, it appears that, in London, a transhipment bond has to be given in which the quantity of tea, and its final destination, have to be stated. A similar procedure might be, the London Committee thought, advantageously adopted in Colombo; and they suggested that, if necessary, the Government of Ceylon should be addressed on the subject. The importance of obtaining accurate information as to the ultimate destination of the teas was apparent, as tea statistics generally were affected by the discrepancies.

The Committee considered the suggestion made by Sir James Buckingham, and they were of opinion that it might usefully be acted upon. But before taking any steps in regard to it, they agreed to await the result of the reference which they had made to tea shippers on the subject. The nature of this reference was defined in the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th July.

(*b*) *Imports of China Tea into the United Kingdom.*—With his letter dated 7th August, Sir James Buckingham forwarded certain particulars of the China export tea trade. These had been extracted from a recent issue of the *Board of Trade Journal*, and they showed that, during last year, the total exports to all parts of the world were 214,962,267 lbs., as compared with 188,371,000 lbs. in 1906; 182,937,000 lbs. in 1905; 193,861,000 lbs. in 1904, and 224,421,000 lbs. in 1903. As regards the United Kingdom, figures for the two earlier years were not given, but for 1905 the exports were 356,853 piculs; for 1906, 87,270 piculs; and for 1907, 157,372 piculs. To the Continent of Europe, exclusive of Russia, more China tea was also sent than in the previous year; and to Russia there was an increase, particularly *via* the Pacific Ports. It was suggested by the London Committee that some proportion of these increased exports must be Indian and Ceylon teas, which are taken to Hankow to be manufactured into "tablet" tea.

Scientific Department.—The Committee noted with much regret that the health of Mr. C. M. Hutchinson, the Chief Scientific Officer, was such as to make it advisable for him to proceed to Europe. They accordingly decided to permit him to take six months' leave from October next.

Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 8th September, 1908.

Proposed Affiliation of the Darjeeling Planters' Association.—In the Proceedings of 30th June last it was mentioned that the Darjeeling Association were to be asked to undertake the framing of the rules for the Association in connection with its suggested affiliation to the Indian Tea Association. The matter is, the General Committee understand from a letter of 29th August from the President of the Darjeeling Association, to be allowed to lie in abeyance meantime, as his Committee are at present too busy to allow of their attending the necessary meetings.

Ceylon Import Duty.—The Secretary of the United Planters' Association of Southern India has forwarded a copy of a letter addressed by his Association to the Government of Madras suggesting that, in view of the opposition of Ceylon to the removal of the import duty on Indian tea, the Government should be asked to impose an equal tax on all Ceylon tea imported into India. The letter was to be acknowledged.

United Planters' Association of Southern India.—A letter of 26th August from the Secretary of the United Planters' Association of Southern India was to be recorded. The letter forwarded copies of various resolutions passed at the recent Annual Meeting of the Association. The Chairman for the year 1908-09 of the Association is Mr. J. G. Hamilton, Chundrapore, Mudigere.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.—In the circular issued to all members of the Association enquiring what amount of support might be looked for in the near future in regard to this Nursing Association, reference was made to the suggestion that a Central Home should be established for the nurses in the Brahmaputra Valley at some such place as Moriani. Mr. Skinner, Chairman of the Assam Branch, now wrote in a letter of 30th August that he had discussed the question with the Lady Superintendent and the Honorary Secretary of the Provincial Branch of the Nursing Association, and that as a result they were inclined to doubt the suitability of Moriani as a centre, and would rather suggest Dibrugarh, which had the advantage of being located conveniently both for rail and river, besides having a higher class of Telegraph Office than Moriani.

Consideration of the matter was meantime postponed until the Committee are able to deal with the whole question on receipt of a sufficient number of replies to the circular mentioned above.

Proposed Separation of Judicial and Executive Duties.—The Association were recently asked by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for their views in regard to the proposals of the Government of India for the separation of Judicial and Executive duties as contained in Government's letter to the local Governments of 27th March, 1908. Prior to sending their opinion to the Chamber, the General Committee invited the views of the District and Branch Associations, and in a letter of 3rd September the Chairman of the Dooars Association stated that their opinion was against the proposals being put in force in the Dooars; reasons for this position were stated.

The views of the Branches and of the Darjeeling Association have still to be received and it was agreed to wire for these as it is understood the Bengal Chamber of Commerce are awaiting a reply from the Committee.

A special telegram to the *Times of Ceylon* about the international rubber exhibition states:—"Mr. Henry C. Pearson, of New York, lecturing on synthetic rubber, treated the subject in a humorous manner, exciting much amusement. Referring to the Burton rubber, he said that he had not seen it, but if a man had a method of making rubber why write to the papers? If the lecturer had found gold nuggets in his garden he would not write to *The Times*; but would put them in circulation. Recording Professor Tilden's discoveries, it was a question whether the rubber particles were of the slightest commercial value. It would be much easier to grow Hevea than to get the equivalent particles from vegetable oils, in point of cheapness; and later it would be produced far more easily and cheaply than anything from the cheapest oil base."

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

The General Committee.

Extracts from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Ceylon Planters' Association Committee at Kandy, on Friday, 11th September, 1908.

BOARD OF TRADE AND CACAO PODS.

READ letter from the Hon the Principal Collector of Customs, Colombo, forwarding communication from the Commercial Branch, Board of Trade, London, enquiring the lowest price per ton at which cacao pods could be shipped from Ceylon, with the names of planters who would be willing to ship supplies.

Resolved:—"That the Secretary be instructed to ask for further information as to the form which shipments were desired, pointing out that cacao husks were practically a waste product which could be supplied at a price little exceeding cost of collection and transport."

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

READ letter from the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, forwarding following Resolution passed at a General Meeting of that Association on 19th August:—

"That this Association, in the face of the refusal of Ceylon to remove the Import duty on tea, do respectfully ask Government to place an equal tax on all Ceylon tea imported into India."

Intimated that receipt of above had been acknowledged.

SALE OF RUBBISH TEAS IN COLOMBO HARBOUR.

READ letter from Chamber of Commerce to Colonial Secretary on above subject, showing that the samples examined, though of common quality, could not be described as otherwise than sound tea, and that they considered it would be unreasonable to fix a standard for the sale of tea in the harbour which is not applicable elsewhere in the Island.

INSECT PESTS: SHOT-HOLE BORER.

Submitted correspondence from Mr. F. E. West, Acting Government Entomologist, describing the beneficial results arising from the importation into U. S. A. of parasitic and predacious enemies of Scolytid bark beetles and suggesting that a similar remedy might be tried for the Shot-hole borer in Ceylon. Discussion of this subject was postponed in expectation of the attendance of Dr. Willis at the Meeting.

"THIRTY COMMITTEE" AND TEA CESS.

READ despatch from H.E. the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Lord Crewe's reply.

Resolved:—(1) "That this Association fully appreciates the able and sympathetic support accorded by H.E the Governor to the planters of Ceylon in this despatch on the Tea Cess for which it heartily thanks him."

(2) "That this Association regrets the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to abolish the Tea Cess, especially in view of the fact that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the continuance of the Cess in India for a further period of five years and would point out that a voluntary Cess was formerly tried in both countries without success. The Association trusts, however, that further consideration may yet be given to the matter and would respectfully suggest the expediency of keeping the Ordinance in force if only to carry out the administration of the surplus funds in accordance with its provisions."

It was further resolved that above Resolutions be referred to the "Thirty Committee" for its support.

Thirty Committee Meeting.

Extracts from Minutes of Proceedings of the "Thirty Committee" at Kandy, on Saturday, 12th September, 1908.

CARDAMOM CESS.

Submitted correspondence.

Resolved:—"That the Secretary arrange for the advertising of Ceylon Cardamoms in selected Indian papers; also that the Secretary communicate with the Ceylon Association in London with the view of purchasing and exhibiting samples of Ceylon Cardamoms at the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition."

FINANCES AND CAMPAIGN ON THE CONTINENT, £3,000 VOTED FOR 1909–10.

Submitted statement of accounts to August 31st, 1908.

Resolved:—"That £3,000 be voted to Mr. J. H. Renton for the Continental Campaign in 1909-10 and that the Secretary advise him that the Committee would be prepared to increase the vote on receiving further details of proposed expenditure, including his own remuneration, &c."

It was also resolved:—"That the same amount be appropriated for advertising Ceylon Tea in America during 1909 as in 1908."

INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE AND ANTI-CHINA CAMPAIGN.

Submitted telegrams and correspondence *re* vote of £2,000 by the Indian Tea Cess Committee towards the proposed Anti-China Campaign in the United Kingdom, conditional on a grant of a similar amount from Ceylon.

Resolved:—"That the £2,000 already asked for this purpose be voted and that this Committee now await a reply to the Secretary's letter to the Ceylon Association in London asking for further information as to how it was proposed to spend the money."

"That this Committee cordially supports and approves of these Resolutions."

CEYLON TEA CESS.

Submitted correspondence on the stoppage of the Cess and resolutions thereon, referred to the "Thirty Committee" by the Ceylon Planters' Association Committee. Resolved:—That this Committee cordially supports and approves of these resolutions."

The "Thirty Committee" then adjourned.

Dr. Willis reports that the Agricultural Department at Peradeniya, Ceylon, have at present 100 plants of *M. dichotoma*, and may expect a few hundred seeds the year after next; while they, like other gardens, have as yet been totally unable to get either *M. piauhyensis* or *M. heptaphylla*, the two best species. In 1910 they will be able to give would-be experimenters a few seeds of *M. dichotoma* to try.

Dr. Willis adds:—"It may also be well to point out that the Manihotes, though they grow so freely for instance at Pallekelle or near Kandy, are plants of a dry climate. The finest specimens of Ceará rubber (*M. Glaziovii*) in Ceylon, so far as we know, are near Trincomalie, and the tree is growing splendidly on the Experiment Station at Maha-iluppalama, near Anuradhapura. Should the yields of the new Manihots turn out to be anything like as good as stated, we may expect some day to see a good deal of land cultivated under them in the North and East."

The Committee of the International Rubber Exhibition at Olympia, London, has decided that the conferences should be regarded as private. No reports are being taken except for the volume of official proceedings to be published after revision of the lectures and speeches by the contributors.

TEA.

The Indian Tea Trade in 1907-08.

A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The following particulars are extracted from the "Review of the Trade of India," in 1907-08:—

The Indian tea trade has enjoyed another prosperous year. The world's consumption has apparently caught up supply, and everything points to its increasing in the future at a corresponding ratio. The only

DISQUIETING FEATURES

of the year's trading were the temporary inflation of values for lower grades of leaf, which have appreciated by 70 per cent. since 1906, at the expense of the better teas, and complaints of a general decline in quality; but the principal excuse for coarse plucking has been removed, now that the market seems to have recovered its sense of proportion. In any event India could not hope to have benefited long by the extravagant rates for her poorer stuff, for they would have provoked the competition of the cheaper China tea, and encouraged increased cultivation in Java.

THE ADVANCE IN CONSUMPTION,

which followed the reduction of the import duty in the United Kingdom to 5*d.* per lb., has been maintained. Internal absorption is increasing, and tea shops are now a common feature of many bazaars, particularly in Southern India; but it is in the expansion of the Continental markets that the prospects of the Indian industry centre, and of these the Russian market in particular is shewing remarkable development The following table illustrates in the last three calendar years, compared with the year 1890, the astonishing growth in absorption of teas from India and Ceylon on the Continent:—

	lbs.
1890	14,001,824
1905	129,881,250
1906	162,461,824
1907 (estimated)	171,500,000

THE RUSSIAN MARKET

is of particular interest and importance. Its development dates from the discovery that Indian dust gives a greater strength to "tablet" tea than Chinese. Indian tea reaches Russia not only by direct shipment, but also across the land frontier of India and by re-export from the United Kingdom, Germany, and China. It has been estimated that Russia in the nine months ending September 30th, 1907, absorbed 30,542,081 lbs. of Indian and Ceylon teas as compared with 24,566,329 lbs. for the same nine months of the previous year. These figures exclude imports of brick tea from China, in which Indian dust has been blended, estimated at 8,000,000, lbs. in 1907 or proportionately 6,000,000 lbs. for the period January—September. India is encouraged to direct importation into Russia by the preferential duty on her tea and that of Ceylon carried by the Trans-Siberian Railway, and it is announced in this connection that a double service of steamers will be established next season

BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND VLADIVOSTOCK TO SAVE TRANSHIPMENT AT COLOMBO.

The duty on tea in Germany was reduced in 1906 to 1½*d.* per lb. and this, aided by a vigorous medical campaign, against beer and coffee, is likely to encourage imports. Holland and Belgium are two other promising markets. As regards the

COMPETITION WITH CEYLON,

it remains to be seen how far the introduction of rubber there will ultimately affect production, for the cultivation tends to oust tea from lower levels where the yield is generally greater than at higher altitudes. The

RESULTS OF IMPROVED PROSPECTS

in the tea trade are illustrated by the appreciation of shares in the market. Mr. George Seton has calculated that the shares of 170 Tea Companies registered in London have enhanced in value from £14,400,000 to £21,600,000 or by no less than 50 per cent., between January, 1905, and November, 1907. China supplied half the requirements of the United Kingdom twenty years ago: in 1907, the proportion had been reduced to 6 per cent. and is only sustained at that level by the competitive price for lower grades of Indian and Ceylon teas. The imports of tea into the United Kingdom in 1907, were as follows:—

	1906.		1907.	
	Million lbs.	Per cent.	Million lbs.	Per cent.
India	183·8	57·2	171·4	54
Ceylon	106·3	33·1	107·5	33·9
China	13·2	4·1	18·8	5·9
Java	12·6	3·9	9·1	2·9

The consumption per capital in the United Kingdom in 1907 was 6·19 lbs., as compared with 6·13 lbs. in the previous year.

The following figures shew the quantity and value of tea exported from India in the last five years:—

	Quantity.	Value.		
	lbs.	Rs.		£
1903-04	207,159,793	8,55,79,327	=	5,705,288
1904-05	211,887,158	8,46,54,867	=	5,643,658
1905-06	214,223,788	8,84,76,037	=	5,898,402
1906-07	233,653,637	9,85,77,642	=	6,571,843
1907-08	227,021,657	10,30,03,486	=	6,866,899

The figures for 1906 07 represented a record both in quantity and value, but the progress in quantity was not maintained in 1907-08, when it declined by 6·63 million lbs. or 2·8 per cent., though the rise in value was of Rs. 44·26 lakhs (£295,000) or 4·5 per cent.—the increase in specific value being one of about 7·6 per cent.

The quantities of tea exported to the principal countries in the last three years have been as follows in thousands of lbs.:—

	1905-06.	1906-07.	1907-08.
United Kingdom	166,591	176,170	169,325
Canada	15,019	14,515	4,731
Russia	9,988	13,761	15,407
Australia	7,729	9,499	11,090
Turkey in Asia	3,543	3,101	3,504
Ceylon	2,101	4,818	8,881
China	3,076	4,820	7,502
Persia	1,102	929	1,578
United States	2,175	1,739	2,086
Other countries	2,900	4,302	2,919

Though the figures for the United Kingdom tend proportionately to reduce, as direct shipments take the place of consignments to London on optional bills of lading, her share of the total exports stands at 74·6 per cent. The expansion in the Ceylon and China figures is due to Russian requirements and the heavy decline in direct shipments to Canada should not be regarded as an index of a contracting market. Russia and Australia have made marked advances. The figures to Australia were swelled by a replacement of the shipment of 750,000 lbs. lost by fire on the ss. *Fortunatus*.

Another feature of the year's trade which should be noticed is the increase in volume of sales by auction in

CALCUTTA IN PREFERENCE TO MINCING LANE,

and London has further suffered as the emporium of imports into the United Kingdom by the competition of lower freights with Glasgow and

Liverpool. About 73,200,000 lbs. were auctioned in Calcutta during the past season, of which only about 20,000,000 lbs. went to London, and of the balance Russia (direct and through China and Ceylon) absorbed 27¾ millions and Australia 10¾ millions The prices realised in Calcutta have shown a greater advance on those of the previous year than those in London and several of the London-Assam Companies have found it profitable to auction their lower grades of tea here rather than at Home.

PRICES AT AUCTION IN CALCUTTA.

	Broken Pekoe.		Pekoe.		Pekoe Souchong, Souchong, Pekoe Fannings and Congou.		Net Average Price.	Variation.
	Price. as. ps.	Variation.	Price. as. ps.	Variation.	Price. as. ps.	Variation.	as. ps.	
1904-05	5 10	100	5 4	100	4 6	100	5 4	100
1905-06	6 3	107	5 2	97	4 2	93	5 4	100
1906-07	6 8	114	5 7	105	4 7	102	5 5	102
1907-08	7 2	123	6 10	128	6 2	137	6 8	125

The average price realised in 1907-08 in London was 8·21*d.* per lb., as compared with 8·11*d.* per lb. in 1906-07.

In spite of the efforts of the Indian Tea Association, estimates of production continue under suspicion of great inaccuracy, and for this the Planters must be held chiefly to blame. The crop in 1907 was generally considered to be better than that of the previous year, except in Bengal. The table below gives approximate figures of the area, production and land exports during the last five years, and the actual figures of exports by sea during the same period :—

	Area acres.	Production lbs.	Exports (lbs.) By land.	By sea.
1903	526,611	209,041,888	679,616	204,123,723
1904	524,472	221,565,631	744,352	211,395,940
1905	528,004	221,712,407	760,256	210,798,056
1906	529,246	241,403,510	942,256	235,815,697
1907	536,652	248,020,398	865,648	235,422,376

The export trade is practically confined to three ports, Calcutta shipping, 73·9 per cent.; Chittagong, 18·9 per cent. (almost entirely to the United Kingdom), and Madras, 6·2 per cent. Five years ago Calcutta claimed 83 per cent. of the total.

The Coast shipments were in the last two years :—

	1906-07 lbs.	1907-08. lbs.
From Bengal	3,298,495	3,380,385
From Eastern Bengal and Assam ...	1,185,827	854,117

The recorded exports of Green tea by sea and by land during the last three years were :—

	lbs.
1905-06	2,183,940
1906-07	2,034,384
1907-08	1,806,031

--*Indian Trade Journal*, September 3rd].

The Java Tea Industry.

RIVALRY WITH CEYLON.

As a result of his recent visit to Java, the Editor of *The Ceylon Observer* writes:—"Of far greater interest to Ceylon at present is it to learn of tea cultivation and production in Java; for, gradually but surely, there is the likelihood here of a rivalry that may to some extent affect markets now occupied by Indian and Ceylon teas. Tea planters in Java have, so far, not been indebted so much to their scientific department as have their brethren interested in cinchona and coffee. In many cases, the cultivation of tea and cinchona go together. But they have learned much from the experience gained in India and Ceylon in respect of jât, modes of planting, pruning and preparation. There are many exceptionally large plantations with first-class factories thoroughly well-equipped; and though there is only one "Malabar"—a uniquely rich undulating plateau at 5,000 feet—yet there are many luxuriant gardens yielding fairly good teas up to the best average crops per acre that are gathered in Ceylon, from 500 to 800 lbs. per acre. A finer cover or better jât of tea in many cases one could not wish to see. The extension of this cultivation must come chiefly from the planting of reserves already in private hands; and, indeed, there is at present a good deal of young tea yet to come into bearing. With these facts in view, it is not surprising that a steady increase in the total crop of Java tea is expected for some years to come, and that there should be the prospect of a growing export to the Australian Colonies in return for an import trade in stock, provisions, cold storage, &c, which is growing up, through the establishment of a direct line of steamers between Melbourne and Sydney and Soerabaya and Batavia."

The Manufacture of Tea.

CHARCOAL *vs.* FIREWOOD.

The s.s. *City of York*, which sailed to-day for Calcutta, had amongst her passengers from Colombo Mr. J. R. Farbridge, the Eastern Director of the Tyneside Foundry and Engineering Company, and one of the inventors of the chula tea drier. Mr. Farbridge had no particulars to communicate regarding his visit to Northern India, merely stating that he was going on a combined business and pleasure-trip in the interests of his firm, who are now firmly established in the tea districts beyond Calcutta. Knowing that Mr. Farbridge is personally interested in the drying of tea by means of charcoal and has during the past 12 months been engaged principally in Ceylon, but also in India, in furthering this method of firing tea, a *Times of Ceylon* representative to-day asked Mr. Farbridge what progress he had now to report.

"I am quite satisfied," remarked Mr. Farbridge, "with the progress I am making, and I think I can safely claim to have thoroughly convinced by practical demonstrations, a fair number of estate managers in several of the Ceylon tea districts of the economical advantages to be derived by first converting the estate jungle into charcoal,—by doing this on some estates half the present consumption of wood-fuel would be sufficient to dry the present crop of tea—and then using it in our drier. I maintain that there are many Superintendents in Ceylon who, by adopting this process, could have a continuous supply of fuel on the estates."

THE MAKING OF CHARCOAL.

"Do you consider the methods in Ceylon of making charcoal satisfactory?"

"No, I would not like to say that. I have visited several districts and have seen them making charcoal, but the methods adopted vary considerably. The best charcoal contractor I have seen was an old Sinhalese man in Dolosbage. He told me he was trained by Mr. Blackett, late of Dolosbage This man was making charcoal in a very scientific and practical manner and in a style very similar to the recognised methods adopted in the Black Forest, Germany. He made it in stacks 40 feet × 12 feet × 6 feet on the ground level, and obtained a 25 per cent. output from the timber burned. The man was making it in quantities of from 3 to 5 tons, according to the size of his stalk and at a cost of Rs.11 a ton."

"How is charcoal made in South India?"

"I spent a few days in the Permaad District amongst Tamils who were making charcoal for Ladrum estate, but there also the methods are very primitive, although at the same time a coolie can make from 80 to 100 pounds for a day's name, compared with about 70 pounds in Ceylon. In the Salem District of South India the Government make it, and I am told they get 30 per cent. of excellent charcoal from the wood burnt and do the work on up-to-date lines."

INDIAN PLANTERS MORE ALERT THAN CEYLON PLANTERS.

"You appear to be convinced that the charcoal method of drying tea is a thorough success?"

"Yes, I am thoroughly convinced of that, and have been for a long time. My converts in this direction are steadily increasing, although, perhaps, more rapidly in India than in Ceylon."

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE TEA.

"Is charcoal-dried tea recognised in the Colombo and London markets?"

"Well, I cannot speak definitely for the London market, but with regard to the Colombo market, I am told by several well-known local tea buyers that the teas are recognised, and as a proof of that I may tell you that I have been asked by more than one firm to give them a list of the estates using chula drier, so that they can purchase the tea coming from these estates, because they especially want a good keeping quality of tea. To convince you that I am not speaking without my authority I can show you a letter from a Colombo broker addressed to me, which in effect states that chula-fired teas are distinctly more thoroughly fired than the ordinarily-fired teas, and in the opinion of that gentleman teas fired by our method have their keeping qualities much enhanced—a want for which Ceylon teas have generally been notorious."

NEWLY-FELLED JUNGLE AS CHARCOAL.

"With regard to charcoal-making, Mr. Farbridge, does newly-felled jungle make good charcoal?"

"Most certainly it does. Newly-felled jungle makes the very best charcoal, and as much as 30 per cent. of carbon can be obtained from it, if it is not allowed to dry. The reasons I cannot give you without entering into chemical quotations of the action of the hydro-carbons in the fuel when subjected to the great heat which obtained from green fuel during carbonisation. It may be sufficient to say that there is one Company in Ceylon opening a 1,000-acre tea-clearing, and all the newly-felled jungle is to be converted into charcoal and not allowed to decay. One of the Directors of the Company told me that a few days ago."

A SAVING OF LABOUR.

"Apart from the economy and the improved quality of the teas, you claim that your process saves labour?"

"Oh! yes, I do, and from actual practice I can speak of what has been done in this direction, for over two years on one large estate in Ceylon. I give you the figures from memory and in round numbers. Here they are:—Estate crop 500,000 lbs. tea per annum. Previous to drying by chula about 30 coolies per day were used in cutting and transporting firewood. Since adopting chula drying no coolies are used on firewood account, charcoal being delivered at the factory by a Sinhalese villager at Rs.15 per ton in any quantity. The labour-saving question is a very big one, and varies, of course, according to the situation of the estates for fuel supplies. However, assuming that the estate I refer to had to use its Tamil labour for making charcoal, then about one-fifth of the coolies only would be employed at the work, or say 6 coolies a day, against 30 with firewood, to dry the same quantity of tea.—*Times of Ceylon*, 7th September, 1908.

RUBBER.

Rubber Supplies and Prices.

IMPORTANT REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR OF THE FUTURE OUTLOOK.

(*India Rubber World*, August 1st).

The total receipts of rubber of all grades at *Pará* for the crop year ended June 30th last were 36,654 metric tons, or 80,638,800 pounds. This figure has been exceeded only once, in 1906-07, when the arrivals totalled 38,005 tons. The first year in which the record reached 30,000 tons was 1901-02, and the average for that and the succeeding four years was 31,596 tons, or 69,500,000 pounds. Taking five-year periods, we find that the annual arrivals of rubber at Pará have averaged as follows:—

Five years ending June 30th,			1893	17,122	tons.
"	"	"	1898	20,946	"
"	"	"	1903	27,900	"
"	"	"	1908	34,609	"

During the era covered by the table the average annual production has more than doubled. From the first beginnings of the rubber trade there has been an almost steady increase in the exports from Pará, and the best rate of the past is not only being maintained, but exceeded. A question which now concerns very many persons is whether the production of rubber in the Amazon regions will continue to expand, and what will be the effects upon prices

It seems to us that so far as the real "Pará" rubber is concerned—the product of the *Hevea*—the Amazon output will keep on growing until, perchance, it is checked by competition elsewhere. First to be utilized in the industries, Pará rubber still holds first place in the world's markets. There are uses for rubber for which this particular class of material is indispensable. There are certain demands for goods which must be met, regardless of the cost of crude rubber, and the

FORESTS HAVE ALWAYS RESPONDED

to every demand upon them for rubber, even if manufactures have had to pay more and more for it. The native supplies *Hevea* are seemingly inexhaustible, but their yield of rubber is held in check by the limited labour force available, and by the remoteness or lack of accessibility of the trees. But gradually these drawbacks have been overcome to an extent, as is moved by the fact that more rubber comes out every year. The fixed population of rubber gatherers grows somewhat, and the means of reaching rubber forests and of shipping their product are improving all the while.

These facts, considered alone, may not appear encouraging to the rubber planting interest. But the point may be made here that the increase in the output of rubber has been due to the growing demand for rubber goods—a demand so pressing as to put up the price of the raw material in spite of the constantly larger production. Should present conditions continue, it would seem reasonable to look for a gradual extension of the rubber areas worked in the Amazon region, to meet an ever growing demand for rubber goods, with prices of crude rubber maintain at the present or a higher level.

In considering the continuation of "present conditions," account must be taken of other sources of forest rubber than the *Hevea* species. Every now and then rubber from a new source is reported, with a rapid increase in output until the zenith is reached, when

AN EQUALLY RAPID DECLINE OCCURS.

Thus the rubber exports from Colombia increased in a few years from 250,000 pounds to nearly 7,000,000, falling again to the first figure named. Or take Lagos in West Africa—56 pounds of rubber shipped in 1893; 6,484,363 pounds in 1898; and only 131,311 pounds in 1903, ten years from the beginning. And Mexico, after exporting 142,655 pounds of rubber in the fiscal year

1896-97, shipped 10,821,247 pounds in twelve months, a decade later, putting Mexico, second in rank among rubber-producing countries. Of Mexico's present output probably 95 per cent. is "guayule." the supply of which is bound to go the way of all forest rubber sources with the exception of the *Hevea*—trees which survive tapping for a lifetime.

It must be noted, too, that not all the rubber shipped down the Amazon is "Pará." There are millions of pounds annually of "caucho," a rubber obtained from a different species than *Hevea* by felling the trees and exhausting the supply. In brief, the tendency is toward the practical disappearance of the various kinds of forest rubber other than *Hevea.* Of this sort there is enough, probably, to meet the world's total demand for rubber. but the output is limited, as already pointed out, by lack of accessibility and small native labour supply.

THE PRODUCERS OF PLANTATION RUBBER

have for their encouragement, therefore, the prospect of a continued and increasing demand for rubber, plus a decline of native supplies. Without plantations the supply of rubber must in time diminish, since no prices within reason would lead to the exploitation of great areas of *Hevea* rubber. The danger of overproduction, therefore, does not seem imminent, so long as there are so many single rubber factories, each consuming more rubber than is produced in all Ceylon and Malaya, and others are likely to increase their consumption as more plantations are opened.

We do not overlook the fact that *Castilloa* and other rubber species than *Hevea* are being cultivated successfully, but not in this generation does it seem likely that their product will more than offset the exhaustion of natural supplies of rubber at the ordinary rate from trees of the same species.—*India Rubber World*, August 1st.

Rubber in the Malay States.

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD TREES.

Passing through Colombo to-day on his way to Europe is Mr. A. Rose, Manager of the Dooloo Tea Co., in Cachar, Assam, who, two years ago, when the rubber boom was in its height, went down to the Malay States to look into matters, and decided to go in for rubber. He then travelled through Johore, Perak and the greater part of the Malay States and settled on Perak as the part where he would like to take up land. This was followed by a trip his brother took, to finally select a block, and 3,000 acres in Perak were obtained, near the Perak Sugar Cultivation Co.'s land. Part of it had been looked at by those interested in Jebong, and other Perak estates; but there was an impression that it was mainly swamp and there was no enquiry for it Mr. Rose, the present Manager (brother of our visitor to-day), found there was practically no swamp ; but it was good undulating land, with water level 8 or 9 feet below the surface, whereas on some other well-known places (in Klang, &c.) it is only 2 feet below and a strong tap-root for the rubber tree is almost impossible to obtain. Not only that, but this block was found to contain some

SEVENTY OLD RUBBER TREES

of a former Government experimental rubber plantation, which had been abandoned or overlooked. A man of the name of Toynbee had tried to grow tobacco, too, on part of it—a venture which came to an untimely end. 15 to 16 years is the age of these old trees; and their yield for one year without the slightest forcing, or over-tapping, has been

10 LB. OF DRY RUBBER PER TREE.

Since then Mr. Rose has had these trees plentifully manured, in the best way, and the effect is seen in the more abundant latex and improved look of the trees. There is no machinery installed yet, so the rubber has so far only been made in a primitive style, rolled out into sheets by means of a bottle filled with shots; but it has been appreciated for its excellent resilience and strength in the London market, fetching 3*s.* 7½*d.* at a sale when the top price of plantation rubber was only 3*s.* 9*d.* Mr. Rose has had 500 acres of his now 1,000 acres (the estate is called St. John's) planted up by this time, and is to have the rest opened, 100 to 150 acres yearly. The balance 2,000 has been taken

up by the Dooloo (Assam) Tea Co. Agents, Messrs. Duncan Brothers of Calcutta, while the Messrs. Rose hold two-fifths of this; and about 400 of these 2,000 acres, called "St. Patrick's," are open. The planting has been done, unlike most of the other estates in the district, direct with *germinated seed*. Mr. Rose, the manager, when he started this, was ridiculed by his neighbours for it; he informed his brother to this effect—but received orders to follow instructions implicitly, and now the grand result can be seen in one of the finest sheets of young rubber to be met with in the Malay States. Any losses by disease, or insect enemies, &c., have been supplied with rubber stumps from nurseries which are maintained for this purpose; and so even is the growth that it is hard to tell which plants are from germinated seed, and which from supplies. Altogether Mr. Rose has good reason to be satisfied with his property; his enterprise has led to decided interest being taken in Assam in rubber cultivation in the Malay States.

PLANTATION RUBBER PRODUCTION AT 6D. PER LB.

Mr. Rose expressed the conviction to Mr. B. C. N. Knight in 1906 that dry rubber ought to be turned out in Malaya, provided coolies were paid entirely by task work (so as to get the full capacity for work out of them) and not by the day, at a cost of 6*d.* per lb. He said that in Jebong Mr. Knight ought to be able to produce at almost 9*d.* The ex-Ceylon planter was then incredulous. But it is interesting to know that Jebong is now turning out its rubber at this very figure, 9*d.* per lb. We have reason to believe that Mr. Knight sees where still further economies may so be effected that he will approximate even more closely in the future to the fulfilment of Mr. Rose's conviction.

Mr. Rose, we learn to-day, expects a boom again before long and, if rubber were to touch between 5*s.* and 6*s.*, another rush for land in Malaya; but at present there is very little extension, only an additional 300 to 400 acres this year. He is one of those who would for a time like to see rubber down to 2*s.* 6*d.*, for new uses for the product would come to light then; and he is certain the resilience of the rubber market would bring prices back to a satisfactorily profitable level for the grower in a short time.—*Ceylon Observer*, 3rd September, 1908.

Alleged Outbreak of Rubber Canker in Java.

Some uneasiness has been aroused of late among rubber planters in Java by the appearance of canker in some of the *Hevea* trees, and the more timid among them recall expert opinion that *Gutto Rambong*, an indigenous kind, should have the preference over the foreign variety.

The *Batavia Nieuwsblad* favours the counsel of despair, which urges the rooting out of the *Hevea* and the replacing of it by the Rambong.

Mr. Cleveland Harington wrote to the *Batavia Nieuwsblad* protesting strongly against these alarmist views, and asserted from personal knowledge that canker was not at all common on rubber estates in Java. It had also been noticed in Ceylon and the Federated Malay States, but was not thought much of by planters. He pointed out that such alarmist statements would impair the good name which Java has among capitalists in foreign lands for rubber investment. Mr. Harington also shows that planters from the Straits and Ceylon, who had visited Java, have nothing but praise for the rubber plantations there. Such is the confidence of British capitalists in Java rubber that they have invested twenty millions of guilders in that line of planting enterprise in the Island. Mr. Harington had just returned from Deli, where planters have every faith in *Hevea*, and had rooted out the *Ficus* or *Rambong* to make room for it on many estates. He had not found a single trace of canker in Deli, and planters had never met with it so far, so he was told.

The *Sumatra Post* ridicules the alarmists, and shows that there need be no uneasiness about rubber canker in that quarter. There is hardly any sign of it on the estates. Mr. V. Ris, the head manager of the United Serdang (Sumatra) Rubber Plantations Company, assured that Journal that, on one of the latter's estates he examined 120,000 *Hevea* trees from two to three years old and found that only about 0·4 per cent. of them had any disease at all. Of these, very few indeed bore the marks of canker. Other Planters have confirmed the experience of Mr. Ris. So far, in Deli, *Rambong* has no chance of displacing *Hevea*.—*Straits Times*, August 18th.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

Book of Proceedings, 1908.

There was unexpected delay in the publication of this book. Instead of being ready by the 15th October, as was anticipated, the first batch was only despatched on the 28th idem, when all orders then received were executed in full. Future orders can be dealt with immediately on receipt.

The Theni Bridge.

The latest information received about the Theni Bridge so much needed by many planters in Travancore is to be found in G.O. 1394-1, Miscellaneous, of the Madras Government. This is dated 10th October, issues from the Local and Municipal Department, and runs as follows :—

READ the following paper :—

From the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore, dated 24th August, 1908, regarding the construction of a bridge across the Theni river, Madura district.

ORDER.

The United Planters' Association of Southern India will be referred to the reply given to their former representation by G.O. No. 226 L., dated 13th February, 1908. The Association should address the District Board of Madura in the first instance. No sufficient reason exists which would justify Government in taking action in the matter of the construction of the Bridge over the Theni river independently of the District Board, or contrary to the wishes of that body. The preparation of detailed schemes for the construction of a railway from Ammayanayakanur to Uttamapalaiyam has been delayed, but there is the possibility of such a line being constructed at no distant date. His Excellency in Council would therefore be prepared to take into consideration any proposal which the District Board of Madura may submit for constructing, should funds permit, a bridge over the Theni river at a point on the contemplated alignment of the proposed railway, the bridge being built on a design suitable to adaptation both to rail and road traffic. In that event, should circumstances arise which would delay indefinitely the construction of the proposed line, the bridge would, on construction, be available for cart traffic.

The matter has been referred already to the Madura District Board, whose reply is awaited.

The Ceylon Tea Duty.

In a letter dated 9th October, 1908, the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, states :—

"In continuation of my letter No. 2543, dated the 11th September last, on the subject of the raising to a protective rate of the Indian import duty on tea imported from Ceylon, I am directed to state that the Government of India regret that they are unable to entertain the suggestion made by the Association."

A Reuter's telegram, dated 27th October supplements the above. This message states that, in the House of Commons, Colonel Seely, replying to Mr. Rees, said that, in the opinion of the Ceylon Government, the repeal of the duty on Indian tea would not be in the interests of the Colony and would result in the export of Indian tea in circumstances making the purchaser suppose it was the produce of Ceylon. If the concession were made to India it could hardly be refused in other directions. Lord Morley, he added, agreed with his predecessor that the local view must prevail, as Imperial interests were not involved.

India's Tariff Policy.

Writing to the Chairman, in a letter dated 24th September, 1908, the Hon'ble Mr. M. de P. Webb says :—

"I beg to thank you for your letter of the 27th ultimo and am much obliged to you and your Committee for kindly placing the matter of the Commercial Policy, suited to the requirements of this country, before your local Associations. I am looking forward to the result with considerable interest, and am very glad to note that your Association has on former occasions recorded its opinion in favour of Preferential Trade within the empire. I feel convinced that this is the right policy if British commercial supremacy and political pre-eminence are to be maintained.

"You may have noticed that "Capital" of Calcutta has recently adversely criticised my efforts to aid in the solution of the great problem of Tariff Reform. By the enclosed you will see that Capital's opinions are strangely at variance with those of others whose views are entitled to respect.

"Again thanking you for your very kind assistance."

There is nothing of special importance in the Press remarks referred to above, so they are not reprinted here.

The Scientific Officer Scheme.

The Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association passed, on the 10th October, a Resolution :—

"That this Association do subscribe the sum of Rs.50 per annum for a period of 5 years towards the Scientific Officer Scheme." As is well known, the Association represents a young district still in an immature stage.

Labour Laws.

An Assam planter wrote to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., under date 6th October, 1908 :—

"I beg to thank you for the copies of the Association's Proceedings with the references to the Labour Act. When writing the enclosed letter which I send, as it may be of interest to you as showing where the Northern India shoe pinches, I was not aware that an Act on my lines was already in existence.

"I enclose a cutting out of to-day's paper giving the method in which Darjiling proposes to deal, and Cachar has gone on very similar lines, with the point so practically and admirably dealt with in Section 26 of your Act. I have just sent a copy of this Section to the *Englishman*."

The letter referred to is reprinted below, as it may be of interest in view of the possibility of endeavours to introduce an Imperial Act applicable to estate labour in all the planting districts of India. It reads as follows:—

ASSAM LABOUR.

To the Editor of the "Englishman."

SIR,—There are some points in the report of the Assam Labour Commission of 1906 to which public attention might be drawn; although the proceedings of the Tea Association from time to time indicate that the whole matter has their attention. They seem to be proceeding however on the idea that the special legislation should be maintained, but the Resolution of the Government of India on the Commission's report is hardly in accord with this.

The Commissioners were unanimous that a penal law affected recruiting. In reply, it might be asserted that any civil law dealing with agricultural labour would be of little or no value. They admit that the working of Act XIII of 1859 has been mixed up with the penal clauses of the Acts passed since 1862 and now that the two clauses of Act VI, which have been thus used, have been abrogated, it remains to be seen whether Act XIII will continue to be considered of so much value. That Act *dealt* with artizans having a domicile who damaged the material they worked only, but an agricultural labourer's work results are on a different footing, and he resides in a house and on land in which he has no pecuniary interest, and the value of his visible moveables is very limited. A civil suit against him would therefore be a waste of money and any one could evade a warrant which would require constant backing, however quickly obtained, and however leisurely might be an absconder's movements through district after district. Arrest without warrant is therefore a necessary provision and if the law imposed a heavy penalty on all concerned in an arrest, even to the cancelment of an agreement, should the arrested person not be made over to the thannah nearest to the place of arrest, so as to secure the necessary judicial enquiry into all such cases, authorities, from district officials upwards, might regard this power of arrest with less disfavour. In this connection there is the further question whether a man should not be at liberty to work or not to work, as he pleases, regardless of the interests of his employer. It is an old time comparison but the Penal Merchant Shipping Act for the successful working of that industry, compels a sailor to work on a ship until the last port mentioned in his articles is reached, however near the penultimate port may be. In agriculture this last port is only reached when a crop is stored and garnered, and the last month's, week's or day's work, are of more value than all the money that has been paid to a labourer for sowing and cultivating, as other things have required outlay. A simple agricultural law, with those facts as its mainspring, would be useful throughout India. The agreement under it should be limited to the period during which work has to be done to secure a crop. It should provide penalties on the employer to carry out his share of the contract—houses, sanitary surroundings, medical attendance, and the same for all cases of recalcitrant labourers. A heavy penalty should be arranged for the "phusalowing" (the Commission word) employer, whose misdeeds of enticing and harbouring labourers already under agreement to others, were noted, Such an act would however be useless in a recruiting district, unless it provided that a labourer should himself register his agreement at the office nearest his native home, or nearest to the place at which he has been resident, say, for at least a year, and of course the agreement should have the name of the future employer on it, and not be transferable. This might assist in doing away with the licensed contractor, some of whose vagaries the Commission noted. It is notorious that these people induce employer's sirdars to make over their recruits to them, paying as much as Rs.50 per recruit. Disestablishing the contractor would therefore much assist in reducing recruiting expenses, when another Commission point could be brought about increasing the rate of pay to labourers.

Distributing the Rs.100 or Rs.150 now paid to a contractor over the present 4 years' agreement would add Rs.2 or Rs.3 per month to labourers' pay throughout the term.

The cost of conveying labourers from one place to another should not be recoverable under the Act. Neither should the Act recognize advances or bonuses. The rate of pay, the form or terms of an agreement should not be laid down in the Act, always provided that the period of an agreement should not exceed twelve months. The two points, pay and incidentals of a particular industry, should be left to the parties concerned. But it should be laid down that the Registrar must convince himself that a labourer thoroughly understands the terms of his agreement, its obligations, and penalties. This being done by an independent person is a very important provision in a penal statute, and without which the power of arrest without warrant could hardly be re-obtained.

It will be said that work all over India is governed by a system of advances. Be it so, that the agreement should be kept distinct, and if an advance or loan has to be made, it would be advisable that this be done *after* an agreement is signed and registered, and an ordinary I.O.U. be taken, which would bring it within the purview of ordinary civil law. The two accounts, pay and loan, should be kept quite distinct. The full amount of pay due should be paid into the labourer's hands and he should be allowed to take it away from the table, and the loanage be dealt with on another day. Such a course is the only way to convince the authorities that a labourer is being fairly dealt with. It might have the further effect of abating a reckless system of advances, and induce a more prudent system of living on a labourer. An Inspector would concern himself with the work and pay books only.

All that at present is suggested to the Tea Industry is an endeavour to get a short Act aiming at the due and specific performance of a short term of agreement, to bring about the reducing of recruiting charges, which would enable the Industry to give better rates of pay to labourers. The working of such an Act would be greatly assisted if the "phusalowing" contractor and employer could be severely punished, as these men induce a fairly honest race of people to turn dishonest. No doubt abscondings have and will take place from other causes, quarrels marital or otherwise, debt, &c., but the percentage of these is very small. The great curse of the Industry is the unprincipled "phusalower" by which term the "enticer" is more particularly indicated.

T. B.

ASSAM, *23rd June*, 1908.

RULES.

1. Coolies bolt from a garden which we call "A" to a garden called "B."

2. (*a*) "A" writes within three months requesting the coolies to be returned, "B" must return the coolies. If they refuse to go, "B" must see that they are not allowed to work on his garden.

(*b*) "A" writes within three months, but says that if the coolies are not willing to return, he will accept the money owed by them. "B" may then turn the coolies out or pay up the money owed, whichever he prefers, but he must do one or the other.

3. "A" does not write until more than three months have elapsed. "B" may pay the money owed, or turn out the coolies, whichever he prefers, but he must do one or the other.

4. If more than six months elapse before "A" writes, "B" is not bound to assist in any way.

5. Should any case come up which is not covered by the foregoing Rules, or should the two parties concerned not be able to agree, the question is to be referred to the members of the Committee elected in the Sub-District concerned, from whose decision there is to be no appeal.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held 16th September, at Meppadi Club.

Present:—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, Messrs. H. ATZENWILER, F. C. EWART, D. H. MCLEOD, W. MACKINLAY, S. H. POWELL (Junr.), ALISTER WEST, and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

In the Chair.—Mr. A. West.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were confirmed.

1391. *New Member.*—Mr. J. H. Wapshare, proposed by Mr. H. Waddington and seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott, was duly elected.

Correspondence.—General correspondence read and confirmed.

1392. *Roads.—No. 35-B.—Sultan's Battery, Nilgiri Frontier.*—The Honorary Secretary reported that owing to the U. P. A. Meeting he had not written on this matter, but would now do so.

1393. *Road No. 39.—Tulloor-Cherambadi, Nilgiri District.*—The Honorary Secretary was asked to call attention of the President, District Board, Nilgiris, to the condition of this road.

1394. *Rail Freights on Tea.*—READ letter from Traffic Manager, South Indian Railway, stating that the volume of traffic from West Coast to Madras does not warrant any reduction in the existing rates. The Honorary Secretary reported the matter had been placed in the hands of Mr. C. A. Mackenzie to represent to Industrial Conference. The rail freight Calicut to Madras on parcels less than 135 maunds, is more than the shipping freight from Calicut to London.

1395. *Ceylon Recruitment of Labour.*—READ Mr. Rowsell's letter of 12th August.

1396. *Finance.*—The Honorary Secretary reported he had paid the delegate Rs.150 for his expenses to Bangalore.—*Confirmed.*

1397. *United Planters' Association.*—The Honorary Secretary made the following Report:—

"As it has always been the custom for your Delegate to Bangalore to report on what took place at the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I., I will try to supplement what has already appeared in the papers, but the newspaper reports were so full there is not much I can add."

Telegram Forms.—Central Travancore brought forward a motion to ask for an improved form of receipt. This was carried unanimously, everyone seeing the nuisance the present form is as a voucher.

Commission on Money Orders and Weights and Measures.—These are both old subjects, and the former, I think, of little interest to other Districts, however we re-affirmed last year's resolution and must hope that the Trades Associations will take the matter up soon. As regards standard measures, you will have seen I tried to move the matter on a little compared with previous years. The Meeting unanimously supported the resolution. If Local Governments are really anxious for the introduction of a common measure, and will support its introduction themselves, I do not think great difficulty will be found in bringing into use a standard measure in Planting Districts, where Merchants and Coolies are used already to our bushel, but without the support of Government we waste our time trying to alter things.

The European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association.—It was felt that this was not a matter for the U. P. A. to take up as an Association, and it was suggested to the Chairman of the Darjeeling Planters' Association, that he should address the Planters in Southern India through the Honorary Secretaries of the various Associations; so far I have heard nothing from him and I have not learnt if his suggested reduction in the subscription has been carried out or not.

Roads and Communications.—We had nothing to represent at this Meeting, as to our immediate interests. You will have seen that both in the case of the Theni Bridge and the Mangalore-Arsikere Railway the delegates, from Districts concerned, had most unsatisfactory Reports to make. The Association also asked that the Government of Madras re-consider the abandonment of the Atur Ghat Road to the Palnis.

The Scientific Officer Scheme.—Rupees 3,000 has been promised by the U. P. A. and Rs.4,500 by the Governments of Cochin, Coorg, Travancore and Mysore. It was calculated that an annual income of Rs.12,000 would be wanted to support a Scientific Officer, so that there only remains a sum of Rs.4,500 to be found, and considering the sympathetic way in which our proposals have been met by the Madras Government, we hope that we shall not have to wait long before a good man is appointed.

Rubber.—Mr. Richardson's notes and information were most interesting, but I must refer you to the papers for particulars, although they were unable to reproduce the photographs he showed us.

Popularization of Coffee.—This is a matter on which the Mysore Planters are very much more keen than we are here. Delegates from both their Associations would have preferred the proposed cess to have been fixed at 6*d.* a cwt., although 2*d.* to 3*d.* will suffice to raise the amount that will be wanted in London, to join in with other producing countries in the proposed scheme of propaganda, but they would like to see more money raised for the pushing of the consumption of Coffee in India and elsewhere independent of the combined scheme for pushing the sale in Europe. A certain amount of opposition to the scheme of a compulsory cess, as is levied in the case of Tea, may be found from native producers, is in fact anticipated, and was one reason why it was definitely decided that a part of amount raised, if Government accede to our request and impose a cess, may be devoted to increasing sale in this country.

The Madras Planters' Labour Act.—The papers fully reported all that occurred on this question. We confirmed the request that was made during the year by the Secretary asking Government for the present to leave the matter of amending the act in abeyance.

Labour and Emigration.—By far the most interesting part of this discussion occurred in Committee. Nearly all delegates had something to say on the greatly increased competition there is for labour. One delegate told me that in his immediate neighbourhood, owing to the greater competition on the part of Ceylon, planters there had to turn to Coimbatore and that this year they had imported 800 more coolies from there than last season.

The delegate from the Anamalais thought the question of crimping coolies from one District in South India to another even of greater importance than the enticement of labour to emigrate to Ceylon and the Straits. He brought with him a considerable number of letters from members of his Association, these definitely charged a recruiter employed by me of enticing coolies under advance from Anamalais to Wynaad, as a matter of fact our recruiting did not obtain a cooly who had previously been in the Anamalais. This only goes to show the danger there is in accepting any report from maistries. I was on the Sub-Committee appointed to consider what can be done, but before advising the establishment of an Agent at Tuticorin to stop bolters as suggested by Mr. Mackenzie, or asking assistance from Government, we felt that we must have more definite evidence, and finally, as you will have seen, a Committee of three was formed to collect this.

Fiscal Autonomy.—Rather a big question to be taken up and settled at short notice. A Resolution was carried in favour of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire, by a majority—I was the minority. And from same cause, a belief in free trade, I seconded the Resolution that Government be asked to impose an equal duty on tea from Ceylon, as that they refuse to remove, in the case of tea from India.

Pepper Vine Disease.—I asked for further assistance and that Dr. Butler be sent again to investigate this.

Liquor Shops.—We passed a tentative Resolution, to depend on the answer received by us in this matter; no answer has yet been received.

Rules.—It is to be referred to District Associations whether ex-members of the U. P. A. Councils shall not be allowed to attend and speak at Meetings.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Delegate was passed.

1398. *Liquor Shops.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask Mr. D. Mackenzie if he was willing that the shop at Arapetta be closed at expiry of present license and if so to apply to Collector that this be done.

1399. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. S. I. Circular No. 40.
I. T. A Circulars Nos. 12, 13 and 14.
Tea Statistics, July.
Report, Government Gardens, Nilgiris.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) ALISTER WEST,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

Meeting held at Meppadi Club, 14th October, 1908.

Present:—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, Messrs. H. ATZENWILER, B. M. BEHR, S. K. BOUSFIELD, D. MACKENZIE, C. A. MACKENZIE, W. R. M. MACKENZIE, W. MACKINLAY, B. MALCOLM, S. H. POWELL (Junr.), H. B. WINTERBOTHAM, and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Visitor.—Mr. J. Elphinston.

In the Chair.—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott.

The Proceedings of last Meeting were confirmed.

1400. *Road No* 38, *Chundale-Sholadi.*—READ letter from President of the District Board enclosing report of the District Board Engineer—*Recorded.* The Association is unable to agree that section II, Meppadi-Sholadi, can be described as in fair order and would call attention to the condition of the roadway of miles 20 and 21, also to the backward state of the cutting back of the jungle on most of the road.

1401. *Roads Nos.* 35*B and continuation of Road No.* 39, *Tulloor Bridge, Cherambadi.*—READ letters from Honorary Secretary—*Approved.*

1402. *Rail Freights on Tea.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to Messrs. Parry and Company and their reply. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to obtain particulars as to rail and shipping freights paid by other districts.

Resolved—That the Honorary Secretary be instructed to again address the South Indian Railway and point out that his reply that the present volume of traffic does not justify a reduction in the rates for tea sent by rail, does not meet the contention of this Association that any decrease in the rate would increase the volume of traffic.

1403. *Liquor Shops in the vicinity of Estates.*—READ letter from Collector of Malabar and letter from Honorary Secretary asking that license for shop now situated between the 12th and 13th mile on the Chundale-Sholadi Road shall not be renewed next season. The Association considers there is no necessity for any liquor shop between Meppadi and Badari—there is no village served by this shop which appears to have no *raison d'etre* except to force liquor on estate coolies. Mr. Mackenzie stated the estate had suffered very considerable loss owing to the shop.

Liquor Shop at 8th mile of Road, Vayitri to Terriote—The Association notes from the letter of the Collector of Malabar that this shop had been moved 4½ furlongs nearer the estate concerned, than the situation for which it was licensed, and that this change had been taken no notice of by the Department concerned till attention was called to the fact by this Association

1404. *Sale of Factory Sweepings.*—READ letter No. 41, 28th September, from the Indian Tea Association asking all tea producers to take the greatest possible precautions that factory sweepings are not sold so they may be used for human consumption, pointing out that proceeds of such sales must be of insignificant value to estates selling such rubbish, that the effect of permitting it into consumption cannot fail to exercise a deterrent influence on the spread of tea drinking among the native population.

Resolved—That this Association thoroughly agrees with the opinion expressed above. There being no local sale to recognised agents of caffeine manufacturers all members present agreed to destroy all tea unfit for human consumption, and the Honorary Secretary was asked to write all absent members and the other Associations affiliated to United Planters' Association of Southern India, asking them to join in the same promise.

1405. *The Planters' Chronicle.*—Honorary Secretary informed the Meeting that he did not obtain a copy for the Association—he was instructed to buy back volumes and in future obtain annual numbers. Also instructed to ask editor to publish Report of the Ceylon Labour Commission.

1406. *United Planters' Association of Southern India.*—Proposed by Mr. D. Mackenzie and seconded by Mr. Malcolm—That Ex-Chairmen and ex-planting Members of Council be allowed to attend meetings and speak, but not to vote, and also to receive circulars and proceedings while in India if they intimate their wish to the Secretary—*Carried.*

1407. *The Vayitri Magistrate.*—Several complaints were made as to the action of the second-class Magistrate, Vayitri, in summonsing planters and their employees long distances under circumstances which appear unreasonable. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to address the District Magistrate and cite cases reported.

Mr. D. Mackenzie called attention to a case where a dispute over a money transaction between his servants and bazaar keepers was tried as a case of riot, and his servants fined a total of Rs.150. Members offered to raise a subscription to meet cost of taking legal opinion as to whether the charge of riot was justified.

1408. *Papers on the table.*—U. P. A. S. I. Circulars No. 41.
I. T. A. Circulars No. 41.
Tea Statistics, August.
Year Book, Planters' Association, Ceylon.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) C. E. ABBOTT,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

Nilgiri Planters' Association.

Proceedings of an Extraordinary General Meeting held in the Collector's Office, Ootacamund, on Friday, 25th September, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. E. G. WINDLE (in the Chair), A. S. CRUM, E. F. BARBER, J. HARDING PASCOE, H. D. WILBRAHAM, F. T. FELLOWES WILSON, F. J. BELL, D. J. D. COCKBURN (by proxy), and F. W. COCKBURN (*Acting Honorary Secretary*).

Honorary Member.—J. A. Robertson, I. C. S., Collector.

1. Mr. L. L. Porter was unanimously elected to fill the post of Honorary Secretary rendered vacant on Mr. C. H. Brock leaving the District.

2. Mr. E. G. Windle, the Association's delegate to the Meeting of the U P. A. S. I. at Bangalore, presented his Report to the Meeting as follows:—

Report of Delegate to U. P. A. S. I. Meeting.

I will first deal with those subjects on which I received your instructions:—

Import Duties on Seeds, etc.—This was dropped, as being practically useless.

Finance.—A subscription of 8 pies per acre on cultivated area was generally agreed to. One Association, not being represented at the Meeting, had not given its final consent, which, however, there is reason to expect. The total area taxed is 92,443 acres and subscriptions promised amount to Rs.3,851-12-8, both of these being probably increased to some extent on hearing definitely from the Association referred to. This will give an increase of Rs.1,300 to 1,500 over last year's subscriptions. A dividend paid by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. of Rs.908-12-0 has materially assisted our funds and it was resolved to again commence the formation of a Reserve Fund, to which the Secretary was instructed to pay in Rs.1,000. The sporting lessee of the *Planters' Chronicle*, Mr. Ormerod, made a loss on it last year, and it will be leased to him on better terms for 1908-9, whilst it is hoped that all Planters wishing to advertise will make use of this very cheap medium. The Nilgiri share of the 1908-9 subscription is Rs.444-4-8, calculated on 10,663 acres.

Popularization of Coffee.—You will have seen full reports in the papers of the scheme brought forward by Mr. J. G. Hamilton, of South Mysore, and seconded by your delegate. It is a compulsory cess, collected by a Government tax of 3 annas (or 3*d.*) per cent. on all coffee exported from the Indian Empire for 5 years. No Association favoured less than 3 annas, and one was in favour of 6 annas, but at 3 annas per cent. the tax will bring in Rs.75 on every 20 tons, and will, it is estimated, produce some £3,000, as India's share towards a popularization of coffee campaign. The details are to be settled by a very comprehensive Committee, each Association contributing one member, and also each District a member representing those who do not belong to the District Association. This latter point could be easily carried out by Honorary Secretaries of local Associations addressing two or three prominent non-members, asking them to convene a Meeting and elect their own representative. You will see that Mr. Hamilton's Resolution proposed that the Committee should be elected *in anticipation of our petition to the Viceroy being granted*, so the matter should be dealt with at once. The petition to the Viceroy was drafted and approved of at Bangalore, and has, no doubt, been forwarded to Government by now.

Quality and Curing of Coffee.—Your delegate for last year, Mr. C. H. Brock, then asked if members would collect further information as to variations in the quality and consequent prices of coffee, but, though it was recognized that these variations occurred, the explanation of them was very uncertain, and no further information was given.

London Quotations in the Daily Papers of E. I. Coffee.—This was discussed, but as the least cost for a weekly quotation 6 months of the year would be Rs.125, whilst opinion was divided as to whether the Rio quotation was not a better standard in any case, the Meeting decided not to press the matter further.

Scientific Officer.—This scheme seems now to be nearing realization. Subscriptions promised through the U. P. A. S. I. amount to Rs.3,020, whilst the Mysore, Coorg, Travancore and Cochin Governments have subscribed Rs.4,500, so we may expect that the Madras Government will make up the necessary differences.

Madras Planters' Labour Act.—I was instructed by you to propose "that the Government of Madras be asked to compile a complete list of the amendments as they now stand and forward the same to the U. P. A. S. I. for final consideration, and that, on receipt of these final amendments, they should be discussed by three representatives each of the Wynaad and Nilgiri Planters' Associations and the result of this discussion, after being approved of by the respective Associations, be submitted to Government, as the final opinions of the Planting community." You are aware, gentlemen, that the Act was only

accepted for trial by Wynaad and the Nilgiris, and consequently these are the only two Districts which can speak of its working, and there has been much comparing of notes thereon between the two Associations. The last we knew of this comparing of notes was the Wynaad proposal that representatives of the two Associations and the Planting Member should meet in Ootacamund, on some date, which the Honorary Secretary, Wynaad Planters' Association, said he would fix, in May last, which we agreed to, but no more was heard from Wynaad on the subject, and I went to Bangalore with the above instructions. On seeing the Wynaad representative, however, I found the situation completely changed. The Wynaad Planters' Association had lost all hope of getting any amendments which would make the Act a satisfactory one and had instructed its delegate, if the question of amendment was brought up, to oppose it and state that Wynaad wished the Act to be withdrawn. Under these circumstances it was useless bringing forward your proposal, and I voted for the Resolution that the question of amendment of Act I of 1903 be postponed for the present You will be interested to know that the question of a Labour Act for Mysore has commenced to be discussed, the increasing difficulties with labour having caused men to seek for remedies, but, as was significantly remarked, an Act like the Madras Labour Act was not wanted.

Labour Recruiting and Emigration.—I was instructed to support the Wynaad Resolution on this subject and must explain why I brought forward an amendment which I judged to be more nearly in accordance with what your wishes would have been at the time. The first Resolution proposed by Wynaad was, "That this Association do enquire into the question of cooly recruiting for Ceylon and the Straits Settlements," but during the ensuing discussion ample evidence was forthcoming of interference with labour by and amongst ourselves also. A Committee was therefore appointed to deal with the subject and its decision, which was submitted to the Meeting next day was a proposition to refer the matter to another Committee which should enquire into it and advise the U. P. A. S. I. Council, as soon as possible, "as to the best means to be adopted to put a stop to the emigration of advanced labourers to foreign countries, with a view to approach Government on the subject." It did not seem to me that deferring all action in this way was advisable whilst the proposed advice, or recommendation, was not, apparently, to touch upon troubles caused by ourselves. The subject had been notified for consideration in the Agenda paper, I believe by Wynaad; it could hardly be termed a foreign one to Planters, and it was, and is—as many of us know from expensive experience and as was amply testified at the U. P. A. S.I. Meeting—a matter, the seriousness of which has become very greatly intensified during the past year. A Committee would doubtless be required, but I thought that the U. P. A. S. I. might, in the first place, ascertain, if possible, to what extent, if any, Ceylon and the Straits would work with us whilst an appeal to our District Associations would pave the way for further action. I therefore brought forward an amendment,—"that the U. P. A. S. I. address the Central Associations of the Straits and Ceylon and also the South Indian District Associations pointing out the increasing and inevitable friction which is arising from the recruiting of labour being confined to such a limited area in S. India and the practical certainty that this must result in the further raising of advances and rates of pay, requesting them to consider whether the present area of recruiting cannot be considerably extended, or the Indian Government approached with a view to legislation for further regulating recruiting and preventing the crimping of labour." The amendment was lost by 170 votes against 107 and the original Resolution being carried, a Committee was appointed to give it effect. I was asked to make one of this Committee, but was obliged to refuse as I could not give the necessary time to the work and, having a good deal of travelling to do, correspondence frequently takes several days in reaching me. I trust that my action in the matter meets with your approval; I will not recapitulate what I said on this point at the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting, as you will have already seen it, but I would like to add a few words. It is often said that a maistry's statement is no evidence, and complaints of crimping made on such grounds are dismissed as worthless. Now I would point

out that it is obviously impossible that the European Planter can be himself on the spot whilst his labour is being crimped, and also that maistries' evidence was taken before the Ceylon Labour Commission which has recently been sitting, whilst if necessary, a maistry can make a sworn statement which will be evidence in a Court of law. Take an ordinary case, where a Planter has allowed his labour or some of his labour to go to their villages in March, April or May, and coolies are under advance to him, through their maistries. He expects them back, as arranged, in June or July, and finds a deficiency of 10 or possibly 40% the maistries reporting that recruiters from other Districts have been round offering double or treble advance and holding out prospects of higher pay. It says something for the maistry that he has been able to keep a large proportion of his gang under such circumstances and that he did not go off with them wholesale. We know,—I at least know of my own personal knowledge,—that recruiters *have* been round in several Districts offering larger advances and rates of pay than before; that part of the maistry's story can be vouched for; he may or may not know the exact place these recruiters come from, but as long as his advanced labour *is* taken we must recognize the fact that we have thieves amongst us and we have got to find them. It is more to the purpose to try and put a stop to theft than merely to refrain from stealing ourselves.

I will conclude this subject with the hope that all members of this Association will do their utmost to give fully and promptly the information which the U. P. A S. I. Committee will ask for.

With reference to other matters, Dr. Lehmann gave an interesting address, the last we shall have from him, and was heartily thanked for his many services to Planters.

Fiscal Autonomy in India was a subject put before the U. P. A. S. I. by the Hon'ble Mr. Webb, C.I.E., Chairman of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, but Mr. J. G. Hamilton voiced the general feeling that the subject required study by the District Associations before any pronouncement was made by the U. P. A. S. I. though the latter was prepared to recommend to the District Associations a policy of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire.

Ex-Chairmen and Delegates being Members of the U. P. A. S. I.—This point was raised by an ex-Chairman, who takes great interest in Planting matters, and it was resolved to refer the point for the opinions of District Associations.

E. G. WINDLE.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Windle was proposed by Mr. Harding Pascoe and seconded by Mr. Barber.—*Carried unanimously.*

3. *Popularization of Coffee.*—It was resolved to ask the Honorary Secretary to act on the Committee to be appointed in this connection and also to request outside Planters to elect a member for the same purpose.

4. *Act I of* 1903.—Proposed by Mr. Windle and seconded by Mr. Fellowes Wilson, that this Association postpone further consideration of the Labour Act pending Labour legislation elsewhere.—*Carried unanimously.*

Proposed further by Mr. Windle and seconded by Mr. Harding Pascoe, that the recommendations of the Ceylon Labour Commission be printed and circulated to all members of this Association and that a Committee composed of Messrs. Windle, Bell, Wilbraham and the Honorary Secretary meet to consider the matter.—*Carried unanimously.*

5. *Fiscal Autonomy for India.*—The Meeting recorded a Resolution in favour of a policy of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire.

6. *Non-voting Delegates at U. P. A. S. I.*—The Meeting recorded its opinion that ex-Chairmen of the U. P. A. S. I and ex-Planting Members of Council should be allowed to address Meetings of the U. P. A. S. I. on the invitation of the Chairman.

7. *Communications.*—Late arrival of Mails.—READ letter from the Postmaster-General, Madras, stating that the matter is having the attention of the Railway authorities.

8. *Colonial Agency for Tea.*—READ letter from Mr. J. B. Ferguson, Brantford, Ontario, offering to take up an agency for tea in Canada.

9. *Votes of Thanks.*—The proceedings were brought to a close by passing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. C. H. Brock for all his services as Honorary Secretary; to Mr. Windle for presiding; and to the Collector for having kindly lent the room.

F. M. COCKBURN, *Acting Honorary Secretary, U. P. A.*

North Mysore Planters' Association.

Quarterly General Meeting held at Balehonnur, on the 28th September, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. C. H. BROWNE (*President*), THOS. HUNT, E. W. FOWKE, H. PILKINGTON, H. M. NORTHEY, F. W. HIGHT, H. G. BONNER, C. S CRAWFORD, R. G. FOSTER, S. L. MATHIAS, D. MATHIAS, H. BROWNE, and C. P. REED (*Honorary Secretary*).

Roads and Bridges.– READ letter from the Superintending Engineer, Western Circle, dated 24th August, 1908, informing the Association in reply to its letter of the 16th August, 1908, reporting the unsatisfactory condition of certain roads in the Kadur District, that the Executive Engineer, Kadur Division, has been asked to submit a detailed report in each case.—*Recorded with satisfaction.*

READ letter from Executive Engineer, Kadur Division, dated 27th August, 1908, informing the Association that no efforts were being spared in improving the general condition of the roads and maintaining them to the standard of efficiency compatible with the upkeep allowance in each case. The Chairman said that Members must consider this letter extremely satisfactory. The Executive Engineer admitted the roads in the District were not in a satisfactory condition, but he was doing his level best to improve them with the funds at his disposal and this statement was corroborated by the large amount of work being carried out on the roads this season and the better quality of the same. Needless to say, the Executive Engineer might count on the hearty co-operation of the Association.

Heroor-Basrecuttay Road.—Resolved, "That Government be asked to take over the road constructed by Mr. Daniel Mathias from Heroor on the Sallibile-Balehonnur road, to Basrecuttay on the Sallebile-Balehole road, a distance of 7 miles connecting two Government roads and saving a distance of some 12 miles. The road is of great use to a large group of Estates and to the public generally."

Toddy and Arrack Shops.—READ letter from the Excise Commissioner giving the reasons why the toddy and arrack shops on the Sampigee estate had not been closed. *Resolved,* "that the Honorary Secretary write to the Excise Commissioner thanking him for his letter of the 22nd August giving the reasons why Mr. Sparkes had not found it convenient to close the toddy and arrack shops on the Sampigee estate, and pointing out that this Association had not asked that the liquor shops in question should be closed, but removed outside the boundary of Mr. Courpalais' estate and again requesting that this may be done at an early date."

Madras and S.-M. Railway.—Resolved, (*i*) "That the Honorary Secretary be requested to address the Traffic Manager, M. and S.-M. Railway, requesting him to provide better waiting-room accommodation for 1st and 2nd class passengers at the Kadur station, the present accommodation is insufficient and moreover is being used by a class of passengers for which it was not intended and is usually in such a dirty and insanitary condition that passengers are unable to avail themselves of it." (*ii*) "That as the Mail train from Bangalore reaches Birur at about 4 A.M. thereby causing a very inconvenient change to passengers for stations on the Birur-Shimoga branch, this Association requests the Company to put on a through first-class carriage from Bangalore to Shimoga when requested to do so by 3 1st class passengers travelling by the Mail, provided reasonable notice is given."

U. P. A. S. I. Meetings and Circulars.—Resolved, "That this Association is in favour of ex-Chairmen and ex-Planting Members of Council attending Meetings of the U. P. A. S. I. and speaking but not voting and also receiving Circulars and Proceedings while in India if they desire it."

Taluq Board.—Resolved, "That Government be asked to appoint a Member of this Association to each of the Taluq Boards of the Kadur District."

Labour Act I of 1903.—After an animated discussion the following Resolution, proposed by Mr. Thos. Hunt, and seconded by Mr. E. W. Fowke, was put to the Meeting: "That owing to the shortage of labour on some estates said to be due to the fact that our advanced labour is being enticed away to Rubber-planting Districts, and as this danger is likely to increase; and owing to the irregular way in which South Canara coolies turn out to work; that this Association in conjunction with the S. M. P. A. do study the Madras Labour Law (Act I of 1903) with a view to its introduction into Mysore. Such introduction only to be asked for after careful examination, and consideration, and after approaching the Governments concerned, either direct or through the U. P. A. S. I., with a view to finding out what modifications the said Governments are willing to grant us (including an extradition clause which is an absolute necessity)—and that if the Act then appear to be of general benefit to the Planting community, it be brought into force." The Resolution was lost—12 votes for, and 28 against.

Breach of Contract Act XIII of 1859.—*Resolved*, "That the Mysore Government be requested to approach the British Government with a view to obtaining extradition for warrants issued for offenders under Breach of Contract Act XIII of 1859."

C. P. REED, *Honorary Secretary.*

Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association.

Minutes of the Fourth Quarterly General Meeting of this Association held at El Dorado Bungalow, on the 10th October, 1908, *at the kind invitation of Mr. J. Drummond Deane.*

Present:—Messrs. J. A. RICHARDSON (*Chairman and Secretary*), H. DRUMMOND DEANE, J. J. MURPHY, B. WOLDIE, J. DRUMMOND DEANE, P. MADDEN, A. E. VERNEDE, F. E. VERNEDE (*by proxy*), H. B. KIRK, and J. R. VINCENT.

Minutes of last Meeting were taken as read, the Chairman then proposed the following Resolution:—

> "That this Association takes the first opportunity of its Meeting to congratulate His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore on his 51st birthday and assured him of their loyal good wishes."

The Secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the above to His Highness the Maharajah.

The Chairman, continuing, said:—"For the second time this year it is my sad duty to report the death of one of our Members. The late Mr. J. H. Kenyon, our District Magistrate, had been amongst us for some 1½ years and an Honorary Member of this Association during that time. His sudden and most unexpected death came as a great blow to everyone. He took a keen interest in our District, and I am sure a more conscientious Magistrate we could not have had. He has left to mourn him a wife and two young children, and that the sympathy of one and all of us is with them I need hardly say, but we would take this opportunity of expressing our heart-felt sorrow with them in their sad bereavement."

The Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Kenyon expressing the deep sympathy of every Member of the Association in her sad bereavement.

The Chairman then gave his Report on the Bangalore Meeting as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,

I do not wish to take up your time with a long report on the Bangalore Meeting as you will shortly have the Book of Proceedings and can read it up for yourselves.

I will only touch on a few of the subjects which directly concern us as an Association.

First of all I think we have to congratulate the U. P. A. on having adopted the scheme of an acreage assessment as a means for raising the necessary funds for its working expenses. The Association is now on a fairly sound footing financially and starts the new year by placing Rs.1,000 (towards building up another Reserve Fund) with the National Bank of India, Ld., on fixed deposit for one year.

Under the new assessment our subscription amounts to Rs.318-1-4, and I will later on ask you to sanction my paying two-thirds of it out of the funds available.

Telegraph Receipts.—As instructed at our last Meeting I brought up the following Resolution:—

> "That this Association propose that the Director-General in India has his attention called to the very inconvenient new form of Telegraph receipts and request that orders shall be issued, instructing Postmasters in charge to write on receipts the names of places to which the telegram has been despatched."—*Carried unanimously.*

Since then I have received a copy of the Director-General of Telegraphs' reply to that, which reads as follows:—

> "To meet the convenience of the public, Telegraph Offices have been instructed to supply receipt forms beforehand, on application, to admit of senders of telegrams entering whatever particulars they wish to before handing in their messages for despatch. This plan is being followed elsewhere and is found to suit very well."

Commission on Money Orders.—On this the following Resolution was unanimously carried:—

> "That this Association again address the Director-General of the Post Office in India and ask him to reduce the commission on Money Orders to 2 annas for Rs.25; 8 annas for Rs.100; and 4 annas for each subsequent Rs.100."

Since then the following reply has been received:—

> "The Director-General of the Post Office in India regrets that he is unable to recommend the Government of India to make any reduction in the rates of commission on inland Money Orders."

Weights and Measures.—This matter has come up every Meeting for some years past, and a Resolution reading as follows was unanimously carried:—

> "That this Association call the attention of the Government of Madras to the great variation in the capacity of measures in use and ask that the 'Madras Measure' be made the only measure allowed for the obtaining of supplies needed for all departments in the Presidency under their control and that its introduction for use by the general public be more vigorously pushed, this Association promising its support and asking that the Government of Madras use its influence with the neighbouring States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin to induce them to join in bringing into general use the same measure throughout Southern India."

I think it lies with District Associations to move in the matter and bring it to the notice of the Local Authorities. It is a very big thing to tackle, but unless we keep at it and back up the Parent Association we are not likely to get anything done.

European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association.—A Resolution on this matter was passed recommending its appeal for support to the District Associa-

tions, and we will no doubt hear further of it. It is an Association which calls for the unanimous support of every European, especially taking into consideration the present political state of affairs in India, and I feel sure when the appeal comes, every Member of this Association will give it his cordial support.

Scientific Officer.—This is a matter I wish particularly to draw your attention to. At our last Meeting it was decided that we could not subscribe till we had further particulars as to what share we would have of the Scientific Officer's services. I was of opinion, and still am that it is asking too much of one man to visit all the Districts of Southern India, and this was my chief reason for not pushing the matter more at our last Meeting. Quite a different light was thrown on the scheme at Bangalore, however, when I was told that we were just as much entitled to the Scientific Officer's services as any other District, whether we subscribed or not, because the Travancore Government had promised a yearly subscription of Rs.2,000 towards the scheme for 5 years solely on behalf of the Planting Industries. The fact that this money had been given entirely on our behalf, I don't think was realised, the idea being that it was given more on behalf of the Government Scientific Department so that their own Scientific Officer could consult and get advice on Agricultural matters and that we would benefit indirectly through him. Under the circumstances I think we are bound to subscribe something as an Association. I don't think we can afford very much, as we pay a large subscription to the U. P. A. already and we are a young District with a new product still in an immature stage. The matter will come up for discussion during the Meeting, when I am sure it will have your favourable consideration. The Scientific Officer's programme will be drawn up and arranged by a Committee appointed by the U. P. A., so that everyone will have a fair share of his services.

Fiscal Policy.—This is a matter which I simply refer to as it has been recommended to the District Associations in reference to proposal No. 3 in Mr. M. de P. Webb's letter recommending a Policy of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire. This is a subject no Planter is competent to speak on and we must be guided by those who have time to give to the study of a matter which wants years of experience and special training before one can begin to fathom the intricacies of Fiscal Policy. That it is a matter that will come before us in the near future there is no doubt, but when it does come we will have to be guided by those who are in a position to express opinions on it.

Liquor Shops in the vicinity of Estates.—This matter has given us a considerable amount of trouble lately, and although I had no special instructions on this I gladly backed up the following Resolution :—

> "That the U. P. A. S. I. do address the Governments of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin, drawing attention to the complaints made concerning liquor shops in the neighbourhood of Estates and urging them to take such steps as will prevent a recurrence of the annoyance."

There is no doubt these liquor shops are planted down near Estates to entice the cooly to spend his weekly *selavoo* cash on drink, and this is clearly proved in the case of one shop in Peermade, the proprietors of which stipulate for compensation to the extent of some Rs.2,000 odd if they are forced to close it. The only traffic on this particular road is the daily tappal coolies and a few rice carts. We have no wish and no right to interfere with the necessary liquor shops in towns and villages and on public thoroughfares for *bona fide* travellers, but we are quite within our rights to protest against the promiscuous way they are planted down on the boundaries of our estates, and I trust the above Resolution will have some effect.

Labour Recruiting and Emigration.—This, gentlemen, is a subject which requires your undivided attention. I am sorry, that the Book of Proceedings of the Bangalore Meeting has not come out yet as there was a great deal said on this matter in Committee that I cannot quote from memory. The competition for labour is becoming keener every year and with the large demands

from Ceylon and the Straits, to say nothing of our new Rubber Districts, the well-known recruiting centres are getting over-run with Recruiting Agents and it behoves us to spread our operations and try and exploit some new country That this has been done already was very clearly proved by complaints from one or two delegates at Bangalore who complained that their labour was leaving them to go to Travancore. The word "crimping" was rather freely used, to which I strongly protested, though in one case I was told of privately it came very near it, but I am glad to say it did not refer to Mundakayam. Our chief grievance, however, is the way our coolies after having taken advances from our Kanganies are enticed to Ceylon and the Straits. That it is done there is not a shadow of doubt, but it is very hard to trace a cooly or even a Kangany once he has left the country. I do not mean to say that it is knowingly done by any European Recruiting Agent, as I know that in one case quoted at Bangalore, Mr. Rowsell, the head of the Ceylon Agency, took considerable trouble to try and trace up some coolies, but without success. Native Agents and Kanganies are not over-scrupulous, as we know, and it is a very simple matter for coolies or sub-Kanganies to change their names, which makes any form of Registration unreliable. A Committee was appointed to go into this matter to try and frame some scheme which will help us. The inevitable result, however, of the keen competition for labour will be an increase of inter-district troubles which we must prepare for. At the present moment we are busy both here and in Peermade trying to frame rules for inter-estate labour troubles and I am sure in the same way the U. P. A. will have to do the same for inter-district disputes. I am quite aware that such a proposal will not be a popular one and will probably bring down on me a storm of abuse, but I feel quite certain something of the sort will have to be done sooner or later and as there is likely to be a great diversity of opinion on the matter the sooner we start the better. I have heard several Planters say that they would not recognise claims from other Districts, but unless we show some combination and help one another we are not likely to make much headway in our troubles with foreign recruiting agencies.

Rubber in Travancore and Cochin.—With reference to my remarks at Bangalore on our rubber the figures I quoted were taken from returns sent in to me there and I think are very satisfactory. I should just like to draw attention to an error in reporting the last para. of my remarks in which I stated that "our fine soil which had already shown its effect in the matter of growth must also tell on the out-turn of rubber and healthy and rapid RENEWAL of bark." This by some means was printed as REMOVAL of bark, which is not quite the same thing.

This, gentlemen, I think, covers all that was of interest to our Association.

Mr. Woldie proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Richardson for his Report and congratulated him on being appointed Vice-Chairman of the U. P. A.; seconded by Mr. J. J. Murphy and *carried unanimously.*

Peermade Jurisdiction Boundary.—READ letter from the Chief Secretary on this matter. The Chairman stated that it was becoming a very serious matter that nothing had been done towards a settlement and that we had received no answer to our letter of 8th July.

This will form one of the subjects of discussion at the Sri Mullam Assembly, and the Secretary was instructed to provide our Delegate with copies of all correspondence on the matter.

Mundakayam Hospital Accommodation.—READ letter from Chief Secretary, dated 8th August, stating that Government regret they cannot enlarge the accommodation in the Mundakayam Dispensary now.

This forms the second subject for discussion at the Sri Mullam Assembly, and the Delegate was instructed to point out the urgent necessity of the case.

Removal of Royal Trees from Rubber Estates.—The Government order on this matter was passed round the Meeting.

Kanjirapally Bridge.—READ letter from the British Resident and Executive Engineer, stating that the bridge had been repaired and was reported by the Chief Engineer to be absolutely safe for all ordinary traffic.

Rubber Exhibition.—The following extracts of a letter was read from Messrs. Rowe, White and Co., who took charge of the arrangements at Home with regard to the Travancore and Cochin Exhibit.

LONDON, *Sept. 18th*, 1908.

International Rubber Exhibition.

"The Exhibition opened on Monday and we think it should prove interesting to all those who are in any way connected with rubber. Your stand looks very well, although such a small exhibit of rubber was available. You will be glad to hear that the Travancore stand has attracted a great deal of attention the last few days, Sir Henry Blake paying two or three visits and bringing many of his friends who asked for information concerning the country, and we have no doubt it has been the means of bringing the opportunities which this District offers before a very wide circle."

Travellers' Bungalows at Peermade and Poncunnam.—READ letter from Chief Secretary stating that the Peermade Travellers' Bungalow will be available for use before the end of the current Malabar year. As regards the Poncunnam Bungalow, the Chief Engineer's opinion was that a Bungalow was not necessary, and Government had accepted his decision.

Re building of Kodumatha Bridge at Kottayam.—The Chairman stated that he had addressed the Chief Engineer on this matter and that the inhabitants of Kottayam had also sent in a petition asking that the new bridge be raised a few feet higher than the old one to enable the large boats which the increasing trade of the town demands to pass under, so that they can discharge their cargo at the landing stage which is on the eastern side of the bridge.

Motor Transport between Kottayam and Mundakayam.—This was discussed at some length and the Chairman placed some figures as to cost of running, etc., before the Meeting. The Secretary was instructed to address the Chief Engineer on the matter as regards the capability of the bridges to carry a six to eight-ton load

Instructions to the Sri Mullam Delegate.—Mr. Deane consented to represent the Association at the coming Sri Mullam Assembly, and the Secretary was instructed to furnish him with the necessary particulars regarding the Peermade Jurisdiction Boundary and Mundakayam Hospital Accommodation.

Scientific Officer Scheme.—With reference to the Bangalore Delegate's remarks on this subject in his Report on the U. P. A. Meeting, the following Resolution was proposed by Mr. Woldie :—

"That this Association do subscribe the sum of Rs.50 per annum for a period of 5 years towards the Scientific Officer Scheme."

Seconded by Mr. Murphy and *unanimously carried.*

Labour Rules.—Proposed by Mr. Woldie, "That a new local Committee be formed to draw up labour rules as soon as possible and consist of the following Gentlemen :—Messrs. J. R. Vincent, J. J. Murphy, J. D. Deane (Junior), R. Harley and P. Madden, with a quorum of three.

Seconded by Mr. H. D. Deane and *unanimously carried.*

Weights and Measures.— Proposed by Mr. Murphy, "That Parah and Edangally measures of a uniform size decided on by the Committee be used on all estates in the District from 1st January, 1909."

Seconded by Mr. Woldie and *unanimously carried.*

It was decided to procure from the local rice merchants a fair-sized Parah and Edangally and have sets of a corresponding capacity made in Madras of wrought iron and supplied to all estates in the District.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair, the Meeting terminated.

(Signed) J. A. RICHARDSON,
Chairman and Secretary.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Sales of Factory Sweepings.

A Circular dated 28th September, 1908, reads as follows:—

1. The General Committee have at various times in the past taken the opportunity of addressing Members of the Association on the question of the disposal of tea waste and sweepings. They have recommended that the greatest possible precautions should be taken in order to prevent the waste and sweepings being sold for human consumption, and with this object in view they have urged Members to impress on their Managers the importance of not effecting sales at the factories to native buyers.

2. The Committee are glad to say that they believe this recommendation has been extensively acted on, but they understand that considerable quantities of tea sweepings still find their way into the hands of factory buyers who offer higher prices than those quoted by the recognised Agents of caffeine manufacturers. It seems doubtless to be to the immediate advantage of the factory to sell to such buyers as they buy at the factory, instead of, as in the case of the caffeine Agents, requiring delivery in Calcutta, but the effect of permitting such rubbish to pass into local consumption cannot fail, in the Committee's opinion, to exercise a deterrent influence on the spread of tea drinking among the native population. The question has been brought to the notice of the Committee at this time by the Dooars Planters' Association, their information being that a large demand exists in that District for sweepings; this demand appears to have increased during recent years and the increase is difficult to account for, except on the assumption that retail sale for human consumption is the ultimate object of the buyers.

3. The Committee desire once more to impress on Members the extreme importance of combining to refuse to sell their tea refuse to any buyers other than the recognised Agents of caffeine manufacturers. As the immediate monetary gain to be made by selling such refuse to native buyers is but small, the General Committee earnestly hope that all Members will co-operate with them in endeavouring to suppress, in all the tea Districts, the practice referred to.

Extracts from Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 22nd September, 1908.

Proposed Separation of Judicial and Executive Duties.—This question was referred to in the Proceedings of the last Meeting. Subsequently, the views of the Assam Branch upon it had been received and considered. They were to the effect that the feeling in the Assam Valley was adverse to any separation of judicial and executive duties in that District.

The question was again discussed by the Committee, who came to the conclusion that the experiment which the Government of India proposed to make was not one which should be tried in any of the Tea Districts. They accordingly decided to reply to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, by whom their opinion had been invited, to that effect.

Sale of Factory Sweepings.—A letter dated 19th September had been received from the Darjeeling and Dooars Sub-Committee of the Association, forwarding a copy of a communication from the Dooars Planters' Association on the subject of the sale locally of factory sweepings. At a Meeting of the Planters' Association held on the 31st August it had been resolved by a majority to invite the attention of the Indian Tea Association to this question. There appeared to be a demand in the District for sweepings at a good price; and it was presumed that the sweepings were required for retail sale in the bazaars.

The question was one which had been before the General Committee in the past, and they had always considered that such local sales should be discouraged. On two previous occasions they had urged Members to arrange for the sale of all sweepings and fluff to the recognised agents of the manufac-

turers of caffeine ; and they were of opinion that another recommendation to this effect might now be usefully made. They accordingly directed that a circular should be issued to Members, and that the Secretary of the Dooars Planters' Association should be informed of the action taken.

Production of Tea in India.— On the 4th September the Committee had invited Members to state their views on a proposal that figures of the production of black tea on the gardens in each agency should be submitted monthly to the Association. The particulars thus received would be used to compile statistics of the total production of the different Districts, and might be of advantage for comparison with the official figures. From the replies received it appeared that some of the Members did not regard the proposal favourably, and were not inclined to supply the information. This being the case the Committee decided not to proceed with the matter, as incomplete returns would be valueless for the purpose in view. The Members of the Association were to be informed accordingly.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).— Letters, dated 11th, 18th and 25th September, from the Secretary to the Indian Tea Association, London, were brought up for final disposal after previous circulation. The principal matters dealt with in these letters were the following :—

* * * * * * *

(*b*) *Regulation of Sales.*—It was mentioned by Sir James Buckingham in his letter of 25th September, that the Committee of the Association had decided to issue a circular letter to importers asking them to curtail their offerings of tea at the public auctions in London for that and the following weeks. This action had been taken in view of the large quantity of tea which had been printed for sale; and it was understood to have met with the approval of several of the largest importers.

(*c*) *Franco-British Exhibition.*—In a letter, dated 18th September, it was mentioned that the Jurors had met at the Indian Pavilion at the Franco-British Exhibition to decide upon the awards for Tea exhibits. The awards would, it was understood, be published as soon as possible. Tea had been exhibited by forty-eight firms representing seventy tea gardens and the display comprised about 270 samples. A complete list of the samples was submitted with the letter.

Scientific Department.—It was stated in the Proceedings of the Meeting held on the 25th August last that Mr. C. M. Hutchinson, the Chief Scientific Officer, had been granted six months' leave of absence owing to ill-health. The Chairman now reported that Mr. Hutchinson had left for Europe on the 8th October. During his absence the Heeleaka Experimental Station would be in the charge of Dr. G. D. Hope, and Mr. C. B. Antram would continue to control the Entomological station in Cachar. Dr. Hope would deal with any general enquiries that might be made by Members and others in regard to scientific matters.

The Chairman further mentioned that Mr. Hutchinson's report on the working of the Heeleaka Experimental Station during the past three years was in the Press and would be published shortly. A full report on Mosquito Blight by Mr. Antram was also being printed, and its issue would not be long delayed. Mr. Hutchinson had been for some time past engaged in closely investigating the question of the cheesy taint in teas, and had prepared a report upon it. The draft of this Report Mr. Hutchinson would finally revise during his leave, and would send it back to Calcutta for publication by the Association. The "Thrip" insect pest, which is prevalent in Darjeeling, had been examined by Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Antram, and a preliminary report had been prepared. But the investigation had not reached a stage at which any conclusions could be made public; and it was still being carried on under the direction, and with the kind co-operation and assistance of Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, the Imperial Entomologist.

TEA.

Rejection of Ceylon Green Teas by the American Customs.

The Colonial Secretary on the 14th May forwarded the following copy of the following communication from the Government Chemist on the above subject, and asked for details as to the tea so rejected :—

THE LABORATORY, HYDE PARK CORNER,

Colombo, 2nd May, 1908.

SIR,—As there has been considerable difficulty of late in getting Ceylon Green Tea through the American Customs, samples have been analysed and compared with China and Japanese Green Teas to see where the fault lay. The analysis shows Ceylon Green Teas to be as good in every way as the China and Japan Teas from an analytical point of views ; samples have therefore been sent to the American Chemist through the American Consul here to see on what basis the shipments have been condemned, as it is presumed they have been condemned on the Analyst's Report. The United States authorities apparently have the idea that gum has been added in the manufacture of Gunpowders, especially in the Gunpowders made from Fannings. The American Consul has satisfied himself as to the absence of the addition of gum by a visit to one of the estates making such Gunpowder, and has sent his report to his Government.

The question arises, if the United States American Customs still condemn shipments of Ceylon Green Teas, and can give no satisfactory reasons for doing so, then they must be giving preference to Japanese and Chinese Teas, and the Ceylon Government ought to ask for an explanation.—I am, &c., (Signed) A. BRUCE.

The Director, Royal Botanic Gardens.

The Ceylon Chamber on 28th May, 1908, stated that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Gunpowder Teas rejected have, generally, been Fannings and Dust made into the form of Gunpowders and improperly described as such, and the Committee do not think that Ceylon Gunpowders manufactured from whole leaf are rejected by the American Customs Authorities.

CEYLON TEA DUTY.

An ex-Ceylon Planter writes to the *Ceylon Observer* :—

Sept. 29th.—Nothing much here in the way of news. There has been a nasty drop in Travancore tea prices both in high grown, medium and low elevation teas. The fight for fair play in the matter of tea duty is not ended, but you Ceylon people have might, if not right, on your side, as you get the support of your Governor, while in South India the Planter is far beneath the notice of Madras Governor, who never have, and probably never will, take any interest in the tea or rubber industries. In equity, Ceylon teas should pay an import duty at Bombay and other ports of 4 annas per lb., which would give us, poor Southern Planters, a monopoly of our own market which, on our comparatively small output, would be a great help—and a set-off against the shutting-out of our teas from Colombo.

I was glad to see the *Observer* speaking up in favour of "fair play" as to the Indian Tea Duty ; it is extraordinary how Colombo can support a policy that prevents it being the largest Distributing City for tea in the world except, perhaps, London for a few years to come.

RUBBER.

Rubber in Malaya.

(*From Mr. J. B. Carruthers' Report*).

The rapid progress of the rubber industry in Malaya continued during 1907 and at the end of that year 45,764 more acres of rubber land had been planted, an increase of about 46 per cent. on the total of the previous year. The number of acres of planted rubber on the 31st December, 1907, being 179,227 The number of trees in 1906 was under 13,000,000 and in 1907 27,558,400, a large acreage being planted closer than before. The output of dry rubber increased by 145 per cent., 1907 showing an export of 2,278,870 lbs or 1,017 tons as against 935.026,lbs. or 417 tons in the previous year. More than seven times the amount of rubber was exported in 1907 than two years before in 1905.

RUBBER STATISTICS, MALAYA, UP TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1907.

—	Federated Malay States.	Straits Settlements and Kedah.	Johore.	Total.
No. of estates	287	65	13	365
Acreage in possession ...	412,210	116,549	96,819	625,608
Acreage planted up to 31st December, 1907	126,235	42,866	10,126	179,227
Acreage planted during 1907 ...	40,473	9,344	5,764	55,581
No. of trees planted up to 31st December, 1907	19,628,957	6,787,216	1,142,196	27,558,369

RUBBER IN FEDERATED MALAY STATES.

At the end of 1906 there were in the Federated Malay States 85,000 acres, at the end of last year 124,580, an increase of about 46 per cent. There were 10,745,000 trees planted in 1906, and nearly twenty million in 1907. The output of dry rubber was nearly doubled, showing 1,028,792 lbs , or 459 tons, in 1906, and 1,984,285 lbs., or 885 tons, in 1907, an increase of 93 per cent. Since January, 1906, the amount of rubber planted has been trebled, and the whole of that large acreage is in a healthy and vigorous condition.

RUBBER STATISTICS, FEDERATED MALAY STATES, UP TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1907.

—	Selangor.	Perak.	Negri Sembilan.	Pehang.	Total.
No. of estates ...	124	114	34	15	287
Acreage in possession	194,183	141,032	59,631	17,364	412,210
Acreage planted up to 31st December, 1907.	61,552	46,167	17,656	860	126,235
Acreage planted during 1907	19,135	16,050	4,945	193	40,743
No. of trees planted up to 31st December, 1907.	9,648,093	6,648,957	3,165,388	166,590	19,628,957

In 1897 rubber estates were less than 350 acres in extent, 10 years after they had increased by 360 times. In 1902 less than 7,500 acres had been planted, five years after 17 times that amount was under rubber. Nearly all of this land was virgin jungle previously to its being planted with rubber, which had to be cleared before any planting operations could be begun. Nine-tenth of the whole acreage has been cleared and planted by the younger generation of Planters, who deserve the greatest credit for the excellent way in which their work has been carried out. The difficulties under which most of them have opened up their estates have been many and various: bad conditions of health, both for master and cooly, and steadily rising price of labour owing to local conditions.

Yields of Dry Rubber per Tree.

The average amount of dry rubber is over the whole Peninsula 1 lb. 12 ozs. per tapped tree, exactly the same figure as was recorded for last year. This is most encouraging, as the number of trees which are being tapped for the first time far exceeds those already tapped, especially in Selangor, where the average is 1 lb 7 ozs. per tapped tree.

Experiments are being carried on in various parts of the Peninsula; Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan, in regard to yields of comparatively old trees which have not previously been tapped. In Krian these experiments have been carried out for nearly four months, only half the tappable area of the trees being used and space being left, so that more than three years will elapse, with continuous tapping every other day, before the healed surface will be again reached. The figures for one year will be published in next year's report, but as far as they have gone the yields average more than 2 lbs. per mensem per tree. The trees are planted widely apart round the edges of a graveyard and are about 17 years old.

There is as yet not sufficient evidence as to what yields may fairly be expected over large areas of trees from 10 to 20 years old, but all the date which we have at present points to the fact that estimates or prophecies of probable yields at these ages will be amply confirmed.

Comparative Tables of Rubber Crops, Malaya, 1906 and 1907.

	State.	No. of trees tapped.		Rubber yields, lb.		Average yield per tree, 1907.	
		1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.		
				lb.	lb.	lb.	oz.
F.M.S.	Selangor ...	364,638	772,656	620,033	1,131,086	1	7½
F.M.S.	Perak ...	67,710	132,556	94,848	272,804	2	1
F.M.S.	Negri Sembilan ...	91,410	240,401	146,891	580,864	2	7
F.M.S.	Pahang ...	...	...	...	...	...	
S.S.	Malacca ...	*7,000	12,455	*12,000	23,490	1	14
S.S.	Province Wellesley	20,076	48,000	*13,560	82,131	1	11
S.S.	Johore ...	48,350	94,159	47,724	182,495	1	15
	Total ...	599,184	1,300,227	935,056	2,278,870	1	12

In Province Wellesley is included one estate in Singapore, one estate in Penang and one in Kedah.

* These figures are approximate.

Rubber Planting in Travancore.

An ex-Ceylon Planter writes to the *Ceylon Observer* under date 29th September, 1908 :—

Rubber" is really doing very well indeed, and though little is said or written on the subject, it will, I venture to think, assert itself in the near future. I am thinking of putting these places and two rubber places into a Company, and if it goes through, Mr. T. C. Owen will be a Director, and, probably, Messrs. Rowe, White & Co. will be Agents. Certain people have the refusal up to 30th November. The capital to be £60,000 with an issue of £55,000—on which it is estimated the tea will at once pay a 5 per cent. dividend and continue to do so, while the rubber comes into bearing The lands consist of tea : Stagbrook, Hope and Maymolly estates in Peermade, 1,167 acres, of which 687 are in bearing and 124 immature tea and 356 reserve lands.

El Dorado Rubber Estate :—

1904	...	45 acres.	1907	...	108 acres.	
1905	...	160 „	1908	...	20 „	
1906	...	345 „			678 „	
				Reserve land...	136 „	
				Total	814 „	

Kokay-aar Rubber Estate :—

1908	...	234 acres.
Reserve	...	112 „
Total	...	346 „

El Dorado and Kokay-aar estates join each other and both are within three hours' ride of Stagbrook. We have nothing wonderful in growth, but it is even and good.

Our best Hevea 4-year old trees in August measured 22 inches girth, 3 feet from ground : the best 3-year old trees 14¼ to 14¾ inches, 3 feet from ground. Our best Castilloa trees, Mexican variety, 4-year old, measure 32 inches, 3 feet from ground. We have some 3,000 trees of this variety as boundaries between the forest and the Hevea fields of rubber. A few trees of this sort we tapped and made a few biscuits as a curiosity for the Exhibition. I did not care to tap the young Hevea trees.

I am fairly well, but shall be glad of a trip Home as it is over 10 years since I had a trip. My son is in charge of El Dorado, and will relieve me as Manager of the whole group if I get away ; but I want to remain here to see the Company started should it be subscribed, and then hope to get Home early next year.

Para Rubber and Disease in the F. M. S.

Mr. W. J. Gallagher, the Federated Malay State Mycologist, writes :—

The greater number of letters received reported root disease, properly *Fomes semitostus, Berk.* It appears to travel from some of the numerous old jungle stumps among the rubber trees to the healthy young Pará plant of from fifteen to thirty months old. Like most root diseases it is insidious, and seldom noticed until the tree is almost dead ; even when the leaves drop off from its effects, the cause is often attributed to the tree " wintering. " Cure is usually impracticable, but the diseased trees can be isolated and the infection of neighbouring trees prevented. The removal of the old jungle stumps is for various reasons not practicable, but as long as they are left, Planters must be prepared to see root disease cropping up. All old stumps ought to be removed from nurseries at least. I have been able on different occasions to follow fungal threads from an old stump in the nursery to half-a-dozen or so of the young plants immediately round it. These, if planted out, would not alone have succumbed themselves, but would have formed centres of infection.

A wound parasite has been giving trouble among one-year-old plants on several estates. It appears to gain entrance where the stem has been stumped before transplanting from the nursery. It is found, as a rule, on trees which have been planted as rather large stumps; in such cases the top was not taken off with a clean cut, but hacked somewhat. The bark becomes black and dead and can be easily removed; underneath it, on the wood, is a black damp mould. The fungus threads appear to move faster up the stem than down it, and generally have not reached the collar before the disease is noticed, when this is the case there is no need to destroy the plant. The diseased portion can be easily recognized by the black colour of the root and wood. The stem should be cut off in the sound tissue above the collar, and the wounds covered with tar. If the old stump had been tarred, very likely the disease would never have appeared. The same disease has been found on old trees which had been peeled by animals in some cases, in others scorched by fire. When one remembers that for the first year of its life the young Pará plant is growing among a crowd of dead stumps and stems covered with fungi, luckily for the most part harmless, but liable to include kinds which have the faculty of becoming parasitic, the Planter cannot be too watchful of wounds, and should take measures to cover all of any size, stump wounds included, with tar.

Among other pathological appearances must be mentioned the occurrence of huge "knots" or "burrs" on old trees. They are stated not to appear until the trees has been tapped. The appearance is like a malformed development of a dormant bud. It looks like a much flattened deformed branch, up to nine inches in width and three to four feet in length, growing up the stem and covering the true bark, from which it may usually be prised back. It reduces the tappable area considerably, as the bark on the malformation contains little or no latex. An investigation of this interesting but undesirable phenomenon, with the hope of successfully combating it, is in progress.

DEFECTIVE DRAINAGE

was in a few instances the cause of considerable mortality among Pará trees. The Pará rubber appears to adapt itself fairly well to its surroundings, but it suffers in a badly drained soil; stagnant water prevents soil aeration and the root is suffocated. The growing point or top dies back, branches shoot out much as if the plant had been thumb-nailed pruned, but never develop for the leaves scorch from the tip downwards and fall off. The root has a character of its own. Plants put out in an ill-drained soil show several short parallel roots running down from where the root had been stumped. Probably in many peaty soils an excess of humous acids acts injuriously. The anatomy of plants, like heaths, which grow naturally in such soils, is so arranged that the leaves give out a minimum of moisture to the air, and take correspondingly little from the soil. The Pará rubber tree has almost the opposite character. It would be no doubt good practice in such soils to lime the holes made for the "stumps," and to fork in lime about six months afterwards. The ash of the burned jungle neutralises the acidity, and it is further lessened by good drainage giving better aeration to the soil.

Where areas measured by the square mile rather than the acre are without exception covered with the same kind of plant, as is the case with *Hevea brasiliensis* in the Federated Malay States, it is most important to attract disease before it has made any headway. Once it becomes virulent and epidemic the monetary loss would be enormous. Constant vigilance is therefore very necessary, and all appearances of unhealthiness should be reported without delay. There should be no waiting until the plant is actually dead, and infection has most likely spread to others round it. Many of our Planters have learned to their cost in other countries the danger of epidemic fungal disease and are quick to notice sick plants, but not all have yet learnt the importance of taking some steps at the earliest signs of ill-health in their trees.

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The U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED).

Rubber.

The Curator of Government Gardens, the Nilgiris, has kindly sent the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., a few seeds of

Manihot Dichotoma, and
Manihot Piauhyensis

from lots recently received from Bahia and from Kew. These varieties of Rubber belong to Bahia, are allied to the Ceará rubber tree, and are described as quite new to India. *M. Dichotoma* is also known as "Jiquie Manicoba." In the *Kew Bulletin*, No. 2 of 1908, it is remarked :—

> "The German Botanists have decided to distinguish the three species of Manicoba found growing in the States of Bahia and Piauhy, by the following designations, *viz.* :—
>
> So-called Jiquie Manicoba—*M. Dichotoma.*
> „ S. Francisco Manicoba—*M. Heptaphylla.*
> „ Piauhy Mahihot—*M. Piauhyensis.*
>
> "A sample of so-called Jiquie rubber (obtained from *M. Dichotoma*) and a sample of so-called Rio Sao Francisco rubber (obtained from *M. Heptaphylla*), are now in Museum No. 1, and are both rubbers of good quality.
>
> "The seeds germinated very readily."

Circulars lately issued by Messrs. J. P. William & Bros., of Heneratgoda, Ceylon, contain the following information :—

"*M. Dichotoma* does not form quite so large a tree as Ceará, *M. Glaziovii*, and is from 5—12 metres (16—39 feet) in height; the stem also does not become so thick and the bark is thinner and usually paler, the smaller leaves and the large, long seeds afford the most important characters for distinguishing this species from *M. Glaziovii*.

"*M. Heptaphylla* and *M. Piauhyensis* are quite different in habit from *M. Dichotoma*. *M. Heptaphylla* is 3—8 metres (9—26 feet) in height with blackish-brown bark and beautiful purple twigs; the seeds are roundish as in *M. Glaziovii*, but larger and paler than in that species.

"*M. Piauhyensis* is closely allied to *M. Heptaphylla*, but forms somewhat smaller trees from 2—5 metres (6—15 feet) in height; the seeds can scarcely be distinguished from those of *M. Piauhyensis*.

COLLECTION OF RUBBER.

"The mode of collection of rubber from these three species differs from that in use for *M. Glaziovii;* the latex begins to coagulate as soon as collected. With careful methods a tree may be tapped from three to ten times. A cake of from 10—100 grammes may be obtained from a single tapping.

M. Dichotoma yields at present about 400 to 500 tonnes, *M. Heptaphylla* about 500 tonnes, *M. Piauhyensis* about 600 tonnes of rubber per year."

PLANTATIONS.

"With regard to tapping, *M. Piauhyensis* is ready in the third year, and the other two species may be tapped in their fourth year of growth, the yield of rubber from a single tree of *M. Dichotoma* in one year can be reckoned at 100—200 grammes with present methods, and this is equivalent to 200—300 kilogs. per hectare.

"The annual yield of rubber for single trees of *M. Piauhyensis* and *M. Heptaphylla* is from 500—1,000 grammes, which corresponds roughly to about 1 tonne per hectare.

"In the plantation, which are laid out in a primitive manner, the seeds are planted in rows two metres apart, making 2,500 trees to the hectare (2·47 acres).

"The cultivation of Ceará Rubber (*M. Glaziovii*), which has been pursued with more or less profit in many cases, has had to be given up in some places owing to its failure to pay, due partly to the injury caused by wind and by careless tapping, and also to the hardness of its bark.

"The advantage of the three spices from Bahia and Piauhy is that they are less liable to the injuries just mentioned, and that, speaking generally, the yield of rubber is far higher than in *M. Glaziovii*. One hectare planted with *M. Glaziovii* is estimated to yield 300 kilos, whilst 1,000 kilos per hectare is the amount reckoned for *M. Piauhyensis* or *M. Heptaphylla* when planted in suitable positions. Such a yield exceeds even that of *Hevea Brasiliensis*.

"As to the relative values of *M. Piauhyensis* and *M. Heptaphylla*, the former yields a slightly more valuable rubber, and the tree is ready for tapping somewhat earlier. On the other hand, the latter appears to be a longer-lived tree.

"Comparing the Manicoba plants with Hevea, Ule remarks that there is no doubt that the Rubber of *H. Brasiliensis* is of better quality, possesses greater elasticity and obtains the higher price, but in spite of this the characteristics of these Manihots make them well worthy of cultivation.

"In a rather firm loamy soil *M. Dichotoma* is the most suitable species, whilst *M. Heptaphylla* and *M. Piauhyensis* should be planted in a light sandy soil. *M. Dichotoma* has the advantage over the other two species in that its seeds germinate especially easily.

"*H. Brasiliensis* is obviously the most important plant for luxuriant tropical regions, whilst *M. Heptaphylla* and *M. Piauhyensis* must be regarded as the rubber plants of the future for dry and less fertile districts."

"*Agricultural News*, No. 146 of November, 1907, says:—"The season for extracting the latex from the Jiquie Manicoba extends from August to March. The latex possesses the valuable quality of coagulating spontaneously when exposed to the air, and it requires no acid nor other artificial coagulants of any kind."

CULTIVATION EXTENDING.

"The planters of Bahia have awakened to the fact that in the cultivation of Jiquie Manicoba they possess a source of much potential wealth. Already several planters have begun to lay down plantations of the tree in question upon a large scale.

"We are importing fresh seeds of the above new varieties. We have a small number of two-year old trees of *M. Piauhyensis* and *M. Heptaphylla* in our low-country plantation about 100 feet above sea level, called Kola at Veyangoda, and at up-country plantation 21,000 feet elevation called Ellawala Group at Nawalapitiya growing well, some branched at 4 to 5 feet and some at 6 to 8 feet, not flowered yet, they are pretty trees, answer well for ornamental purposes also.

"*M. Dichotoma.*—We have about a thousand four to six-weeks old plants growing well on the above to low and up-country plantations."

TREATMENT.

"Nursery beds may be prepared in the ordinary way for all the varieties. Plant out the seeds about 4 inches apart, cover about quarter inch water twice a day in the morning and evening in dry weather, shading not necessary. *M. Dichotoma* seed begin to germinate in about a fortnight, other two varieties take three to four weeks and over; some of the seeds take over eight weeks to germinate; great care should be taken to prevent rats, squirrels, crows, &c., eating the sprouted seeds and seedlings; when the plants are one foot and over high may be planted out in the field in favourable weather, shading necessary with some suitable kind of jungle leaves until the plants are well established in the soil; branches of Kebella tree (*Aprosa Lindleyana*) and wild fern Kekilla (*Gleichenia Linearis*) answers well in Ceylon."

The Anti-Tea-Duty League.

The President of this League, Sir Roper Lethbridge, K. C. I. E., has come out to Ceylon and India, one of his objects being to obtain the views of planters on the subject of continuing the work of the League.

The Ceylon Tea Duty.

Sir Roper Lethbridge is also interesting himself in this question, as will be seen from reports elsewhere in this issue of interviews with Ceylon press representatives. Mr. J. A. Richardson, Vice-Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I., had several discussions with Sir Roper recently in Ceylon, and during the latter gentleman's visit to Southern India the subject is expected to receive further consideration.

The Proposed Coffee Cess.

Copies of the Memorial submitted to the Government of India with regard to this matter have been circulated for the information of Councillors of the U. P. A. S. I. (including Secretaries of District Planters' Associations).

Popularization of Coffee.

In a letter dated 6th November Mr. John C. Sanderson remarks that he has nothing of interest to report on the above subject. The meeting which was to have taken place on the 12th October last was not held, because no replies had been received from the Consuls of Brazil or the other countries interested. Copies of the U. P. A. S. I. resolutions have been sent to the different coffee-growing countries.

Liquor Shops.

Writing on the 22/29 October, the Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore said:—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 28th August last, forwarding copy of a Resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Association regarding the location of liquor shops in the neighbourhood of estates, and to inform you that the spirit of the Resolution will be borne in mind in granting sanction for the opening of new shops. The Excise Commissioner of this State has already been told that, in fixing the sites for liquor shops after the expiry of the current contracts, the interests of all parties should be carefully considered and that the Planters' Associations should be consulted, wherever possible. These instructions are now being repeated. It is not however possible to lay down, as a rule, that no liquor shops should be opened near estates."

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Anamalai Planters' Association.

Proceedings of an Extraordinary General Meeting held at the Castlecroft Estate Bungalow on September 27th, 1908.

Present :—Messrs. C. A. BANNATINE (*in the Chair*), G. L. DUNCAN, G. A MARSH, C. H. BROCK, J. S. B. WALLACE, F. C. F. LUSHINGTON, R. F. LUSHINGTON, H. W. DESALIS, and C. R. T. CONGREVE (*Honorary Secretary*).

The proceedings of the last Meeting were taken as read, the Honorary Secretary pointing out that the following had been left out of the printed proceedings circulated through an error :—

" *Left out of last proceedings.*—Election of office-bearers—Mr. Congreve was again elected as Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year. Mr. Congreve proposed and Mr. Windle seconded, ' That the Members of last years committee, with the exception of Mr. Vincent, who was leaving the district, be re-elected, and that Mr. Brock be elected in place of Mr. Vincent.' "—*Carried unanimously.*

Mr. Duncan very kindly consented to attend the U. P. A. S. I. Meeting in Bangalore as delegate for the Association.

Mr. Duncan, the Association's delegate to the Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. at Bangalore, presented his report to the Meeting as follows :—

REPORT OF DELEGATE TO U. P. A. S. I. MEETING.

GENTLEMEN,

The Honorary Secretary has put me down on to-day's agenda for a report, although I did not know that this was part of the understanding when you honoured me by asking me to represent this Association at the recent Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. Well, I fear I have done little or nothing to merit your approbation, although, possibly, I may deserve your sympathy.

It is not necessary to go into all the different matters brought up for discussion, and I shall not detain you by attempting to do so.

Perhaps the questions which chiefly interested us locally were those regarding labour recruiting, and Government's policy in connection with Cinchona cultivation. Concerning the latter question the Kanan Devan Hills Association took the same view as ourselves and Mr. Williams supported my resolution in this connection, which was carried unanimously, and it is to be hoped that Government will show some consideration for those who are still interested in this product.

The vexed question of labour recruiting and crimping was, as you are aware, brought up by the Wynaad Association, more particularly as regards the effect of crimping of advanced labour by other countries, while we feel that inter-district crimping, unconsciously or otherwise, is just as serious, if indeed not more so, although no doubt one affects the other.

Some of you were good enough to furnish me with letters with which to confirm our contention that this is a serious and growing evil, but the Chairman thought that these could not be admitted as evidence. Possibly, however, this had the effect of giving the discussion a turn which it would not otherwise have taken, and the remarks of delegates from several other districts went to confirm the fact that they felt almost as strongly as we do on this subject.

A Sub-Committee was formed to go into the matter and the following resolution was carried by a majority :—

> " That in consequence of the increasing demand for labour in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, and the facility with which coolies under advance to work in India are able to evade their contracts by emigrating to these countries, great loss is being experienced by Southern Indian Planters and their recruiters. Further it is

tending to demoralise the labour supply and cause inter-district troubles. That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the whole matter and at as early a date as possible to lay before the Council of the U. P. A. S. I. its recommendations as to the best means to be adopted to put a stop to the emigration of advanced labourers to foreign countries with a view to approaching Government on the subject."

Mr. Windle's amendment received considerable support, but it appeared to me, even at the risk of some delay, that it was desirable to give District Associations an opportunity of expressing their views before addressing foreign Associations on the subject. The Committee appointed, if assisted by Councillors, may, I am sure, be trusted to deal promptly with the matter, and we must now await their recommendations.

If all those districts whose interests are likely to clash could come to some arrangement whereby absconders could be more easily traced, much good might be done, and although it is a very difficult problem, combination should go a long way towards solving it. We are not going to appreciably increase the labour supply from any one locality by increasing advances, nor yet by giving higher rates of pay, and although one may for a season increase his labour force by out-bidding his neighbour, the position may be reversed the following season on the cooly returning to his village when the injured party, smarting under his grievance, goes one better. Such a course must, and, as I believe, has already demoralised maistries and coolies who quickly perceive the lack of combination and take advantage accordingly.

The Popularisation of Coffee Scheme, you will be glad to learn, has got a stage further by all represented Associations agreeing to a compulsory cess of 3 annas per cwt. on all coffee exported for 5 years, and in anticipation of our petition to the Viceroy being granted, Mr. Hamilton's Resolution provided for the formation of a Representative Committee to deal with the funds thus obtained. With regard to the Ceylon Import Tea Duty, you will have seen that in the face of the refusal of Ceylon to remove the import duty on Tea, it was resolved to ask Government to place an equal tax on all Ceylon Tea imported into India. Some recent comments in certain papers may, perhaps, be taken as a sign that this has already had some effect.

Scientific Officer.—You will not all endorse the *Madras Mail's* view that the appointment of a Scientific Officer was the most important business discussed at the Meeting, but it will interest you to know that the announcement that this Association was prepared to contribute its mite to the scheme was well received.

Finances, it is satisfactory to record, have once again been placed on a sound footing by District Associations agreeing to adopt a fixed rate of subscription of 8 pies per acre on the cultivated area represented. This will probably mean an increase to annual revenue of about Rs.1,500. A sum of Rs.908-12-0 paid by the Arbuthnot Estate has further improved the position, and it was resolved to again start a Reserve Fund.

(Signed) G. L. DUNCAN.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Duncan was proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Bannatine.—*Carried unanimously.*

Basis of Subscriptions.—Proposed by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Brock, "That the subscription to this Association be raised to one anna three pies per acre of cultivation, and that each Rs.10 subscribed shall bear one vote, and that Rule 13 be altered accordingly."—*Carried unanimously.*

READ letter from Mr. Windle of September 11th with reference to the representation of this Association on the Coimbatore District Board. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that the next vacancy on the board is to be reserved for a Member of the A. P. A. Mr. Wallace proposed and Mr. Brock seconded that Mr. Windle be nominated to fill the vacancy.—*Carried unanimously.*

Coffee Thefts.—The proceedings of the Committee Meeting held at the Puthutotum Bungalow on September 20th to meet the Inspector of Police were read out, and it was noted with satisfaction that the Inspector proposed to have special constables detailed to watch the coffee during transit, and also to keep a register of all cartmen and coffee sellers in the various villages round. It is hoped that the arrangements decided on will stop thefts from occurring in future.

Cardamom Thefts.—Mr. Duncan proposed and Mr. Marsh seconded that the District Superintendent of Police be approached asking that rewards may be given to the Police for all convictions in cases of thefts of Cardamoms and that a subscription be got up to meet this expense. Rupees 200 was promised by the Members present.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the Meeting closed.

(Signed) C. R. T. CONGREVE,
Honorary Secretary, A. P. A.

Coorg Planters' Association.

Extracts from Proceedings of a Quarterly General Meeting held in the Bamboo Club house, Pollibetta, on Monday, 18th October, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. JAMES CHISHOLM, F. W. GERRARD, H. G. GRANT, E. M. BREITHAUPT, H. F. DAVY, W. A. F. BRACKEN, F. MACRAE, H. T SHAW, A. H. JACKSON, J. W. FINLAYSON, A. BOPANNA, B. GANAPATTI, and G. K. MARTIN (*Honorary Secretary*).

Proposed by Mr. Shaw and seconded by Mr. Macrae that Mr. James Chisholm do take the chair.—*Carried.*

The Chairman in opening the meeting made a speech in which he gave a *résumé* of coffee cultivation and prospects since the early sixties, showing definite periods of ups and downs and while avoiding prophetic utterances regarding prices which would be hazardous, he ventured to state his opinion that the industry was on the upward tend, judging from the marked improvement he noticed in the appearance of coffee, the improved methods of cultivation adopted, coupled with greater economy, and the tendency towards increasing crops that have become apparent of late Borer had diminished to a marked extent and other diseases incidental to coffee plants seem to have abated. He specified certain fields in different estates which he had watched for many years and which appeared in a hopeless condition in spite of all that was done for them, had now taken a turn and were quite fine sheets of coffee. This is considered a very encouraging sign.

On the question of Communications.—The Chairman said that there appeared to be no hope of a railway through Coorg in the near future, he would therefore direct the attention of the meeting to another form of improved communication with the outer world that was about to be presented to us in a practical form, and in this connection he was glad to be able to announce that a Renard road train was about to make a trial run through Coorg early in January, starting from Mysore, and running through to Tellicherry with a full load of goods and passengers, and that the matter was all arranged. He hoped if this trial proved a success, every one would give his support to a Company that would be formed to purchase the stock and start the regular running of these trains. This announcement was received with hearty acclamations.

Proposed Game Laws.—READ bill to make better provision for the protection and preservation of game to be called Indian Game Act 190. Unanimously approved of as affording adequate protection both to cultivation and to game proposed to be protected if properly enforced, for which, however, there seemed to be no provisions.

Dispensaries in Coorg.—READ letter from Officiating Commissioner of Coorg asking opinion of the Association as to the propriety of extending the arrangement obtaining in some dispensaries in Coorg of receiving subscriptions from owners and managers of coffee estates at the rate of 4 annas per acre on cultivated land in consideration of medical advice and medicines supplied to persons attached to the estate.

Recommended that this practice may be extended to any districts asking for it.

Pointed out that South Coorg has its own medical arrangements.

A vote of thanks to the Chair and especially to Mr. Chisholm personally for the part he had taken in bringing about the arrangement for the trial run of the Renard road train, terminated the meeting.

G. K. MARTIN,
Honorary Secretary.

Central Travancore Planters' Association.

The Quarterly General Meeting of this Association was held at Munjamallai, on Wednesday, October 21st, 1908.

Present:—Messrs. D. MCARTHUR (*Chairman*), J. A. RICHARDSON, K. E. NICOLL, T. A. VERNON, H. C. WESTAWAY, T. A. KINMOND, C. W. LACEY, and F. E. THOMAS (*Honorary Secretary*).

The Chairman in opening the Meeting said:—

GENTLEMEN,—Before beginning the business of the day I have to mention the sudden and sad death of Mr. Kenyon, our late District Magistrate and an Honorary Member of this Association. I would ask the Meeting to pass a vote of condolence and sympathy with Mrs. Kenyon in her sad loss, and ask the Honorary Secretary to send her a copy of same.

With regard to the forthcoming Srimulam Popular Assembly, owing to the very short notice that was given, your Committee met and appointed Mr. H. C. Westaway as delegate for this Association.

I will now ask the Honorary Secretary to read the notice calling this Meeting:—

At the Chairman's suggestion the Minutes of the last Meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

THENI BRIDGE.

READ letter from the Under-Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, stating that the United Planters' Association of S. India should address the District Board of Madura in the first instance. An abstract from the letter is as follows:—"No sufficient reason exists which would justify Government in taking action in the matter of the construction of the Bridge over the Theni river independently of the District Board, or contrary to the wishes of that body. The preparation of detailed schemes for the construction of a Railway from Amanayakanur to Uthamapalayam has been delayed, but there is the possibility of such a line being constructed at no distant date. His Excellency in Council would therefore be prepared to take into consideration any proposal which the District Board of Madura may submit for constructing, should funds permit, a bridge over the Theni river at a point on the contemplated alignment of the proposed Railway, the Bridge being built on a design suitable to adaptation both to rail and road traffic. In that event, should circumstances arise which would delay indefinitely the construction of the proposed line, the Bridge would, on construction, be available for cart traffic."

ARRACK TAVERNS.

READ letters from His Highness's Government and the British Resident :—

"A long discussion took place on this subject, chiefly about the Tavern at the Maimallay Gap which was closed by the Resident in 1904 and re-opened again in 1907."

Regarding the proposal to open seven extra Taverns by the Abkari Contractor of Meenachil :—

"The Chairman and the Honorary Secretary met Mr. Vernede, the Superintendent, Cardamom Hills, at Arraday, and gave ample and good reasons why in addition to those already in the District these seven extra Taverns should not be opened." This subject will be brought up at the Srimulam Popular Assembly by our Delegate.

GUDALORE REST HOUSE.

READ letter from the Superintending Engineer, Trichinopoly, *re.* the building of an extra room at Government expense, in which, he says that he has addressed Government in the matter and their reply will be communicated to us in due course.

REPORT OF THE BANGALORE DELEGATE.

Mr. J. A. Richardson said :—

GENTLEMEN,

Though I wish to make my report as short and concise as possible, I think it is just as well to touch on all the subjects discussed at Bangalore which are of interest to our Association. It may seem a lot of needless repetition as you will have it fully reported in the Book of Proceedings, but I know from experience these are not always as carefully read as they might be. It is also a great help to your next delegate, whoever he may be, to have a condensed form of what took place at the previous year's Meetings which directly interests his Association. I will take the items one by one and be as brief as possible.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE U. P. A.

The proposal of an acreage assessment first came from this Association, but met with a good deal of opposition both last year and the year before. I am glad to say, however, this year our scheme met with unanimous support and the subscriptions to the U. P. A. will in future be calculated at 8 pies per cultivated acre. The total acreage returned this year will give an income of Rs.3,851-12-8 besides Rs.300 from the *Chronicle* and sale of Book of Proceedings. To this is to be added a cash balance of Rs.1,559-2-5 from last year which included a final dividend from Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. of Rs.908-12-0 and a sum of Rs.500 due on last year's subscriptions, making in all Rs.6,210-15-1, against this we have an estimated expenditure of Rs.4,700. So we begin this year by placing Rs.1,000 on fixed deposit with the National Bank of India towards building up another reserve fund which is a much better outlook financially than we had to face last year.

THENI BRIDGE.

In this matter, Gentlemen, I hope I did not exceed the bounds of my instructions, which were to push the matter all I could ; as I said in my speech, we have been more than patient and mild in our petitions as regards this Bridge, and the Railway, for over 13 years so that if I did put things a little strong I think it was not without cause. The only result so far of our Resolution on the matter is that the U. P. A. have been informed by the Under-Secretary, Madras, Local and Municipal Department, that they should address the District Board, Madura, direct, which to me does not sound very hopeful in view of the last 13 years' experience, unless the Madras Government are going to insist on the Bridge being built.

ROADS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

As instructed I also drew attention to the state of the Kumli Ghat road and the road between the foot of the hill and Veerapandy and the following Resolution was unanimously carried :—

"That this Association draw the attention of the Madura District Board to the state of the road between Veerapandy and Kumli, which in spite of appeals made by the Central Travancore Association, is still in a very bad condition." With regard to this I may say I carefully examined the Ghat road on my way up in September and unless something is done to it before the heavy north-east rains we run a great chance of being cut off on that side as the steps that occurred last year have only been very temporarily repaired and are in a very dangerous state. A good deal has been done to repair the road between Veerapandy and Cumbum however.

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY ON TEA.

This matter was strongly spoken on by the Chairman in his opening speech and was ably brought up by the Delegate of the Kanan Devan Association. That it has touched our Ceylon friends on the raw, is evident from the subsequent correspondence that has appeared in the Ceylon papers. The Resolution was short and to the point and I trust the Government of India will give it their favourable consideration. The Resolution read as follows :— "That this Association in the face of the refusal of Ceylon to remove the import duty on Tea, do respectfully ask Government to place an equal tax on all Ceylon tea imported into India."

HOME IMPORT DUTY ON TEA AND ANTI-TEA-DUTY LEAGUE.

These I took together, but as nothing can be done until next Budget, I proposed the following Resolution, which was unanimously carried :—

"That this Association recommend local Associations to continue support to the Anti-Tea-Duty League, so that it will be in a position to take up the matter of the British Tea Duty again when the time comes."

The Anti-Tea-Duty League has done a great deal for us, and I trust it will have the support it deserves so that it will be in a position to take the matter up when the time comes.

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER SCHEME.

This is a matter which I would ask you to give your undivided attention. At our previous Meeting here we agreed to join on an acreage basis of subscription, but the Wynaad Planters' Association have already got the required amount guaranteed so we could not expect them to re-arrange the whole scheme. I was of opinion and am still, that it is asking too much of one man to visit all the Districts of Southern India and this was my chief reason for not pushing the matter more at our former Meetings.

A different light was thrown on the scheme at Bangalore when I was told we had just as much right to the Scientific Officer's services as any other District on the ground that Travancore Government had subscribed Rs.2,000 a year for a period of 5 years towards the scheme, solely on behalf of the Planting industries. I am afraid this was not fully understood and that we have been very remiss in not thanking His Highness's Government for the liberal subscription given on our behalf. The idea seems to have got about, that it had been given more or less on behalf of the Government Scientific Department, so that their Scientific Officer could consult and get advice, and that we should benefit indirectly through him. Under these circumstances I trust this Association will see its way to subscribe towards the scheme.

PROPOSED FROM THE CHAIR.

"That if funds are available, a subscription of Rs.150 per annum for a period of 5 years be paid and a vote of thanks be sent to His Highness's Government for its subscription of Rs.2,000—*Carried unanimously.*

TELEGRAPHIC RECEIPTS.

A Resolution on the matter was brought up by this Association and has since been met with the following reply from the Director-General of Telegraphs :—

" The Director-General of Telegraphs writes that, to meet the convenience of the public, telegraph offices have been instructed to supply receipt forms, beforehand, on application, to admit of senders of telegrams entering whatever particulars they wish to before handing in their messages for despatch. This plan is being followed elsewhere and is found to suit very well."

COMMISSION ON MONEY ORDERS.

The following Resolution was passed on this :—That this Association again address the Director-General of the Post Office in India and ask him to reduce the commission on Money Orders to As.2 for Rs.25; As.8 for Rs.100; and As.4 for each subsequent Rs.100, and has since met with the following reply :—" The Director-General of the Post Office in India regrets that he is unable to recommend the Government of India to make any reduction in the rates of commission on inland Money Orders."

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

A Resolution drawing the attention of the Madras and Native States Governments on the variation in the capacity of Measures used in Southern India was passed. This matter has come up for several years past without any definite result, and I think it is for the District Associations to move in the matter, and draw the attention of the Local authorities to it.

EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

An application for support of this Association was forwarded to the U. P. A. who in return have recommended to the various District Associations, and we will no doubt hear further of it. It is an Association which demands the consideration of every European in India, especially at such a time as this, and I trust when the appeal is made it will have the unanimous support of every member of this Association.

FISCAL POLICY.

This is a matter which I simply refer to as it has been recommended by the District Associations in reference to proposal No. 3, in Mr. P. Webb's letter recommending a Policy of mutual preference for British products throughout the Empire. This is a subject no Planter is competent to speak on and we must be guided by those who have time to give to the study of a matter which wants years of experience and special training before one can begin to fathom the intricacies of Fiscal Policy. That it is a matter that will come before us in the near future there is no doubt, but when it does come we shall have to be guided by those who are in a position to express opinion on it.

LIQUOR SHOPS IN THE VICINITY OF ESTATES.

This is a matter which has given a lot of trouble lately, and I was very glad to back up the following Resolution passed at the U. P. A., though I had no special instructions on the matter :—

"That the U. P. A. S. I. do address the Government of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin, drawing attention to complaints made concerning liquor shops in the neighbourhood of estates and urge them to take such steps as will prevent a recurrence of the annoyance."

These liquor shops are becoming a very serious matter in the District, and the promiscuous way they are been dumped down on the boundaries of our estates in spite of the Government assurance that they would not be licensed without first referring to the proprietors of estates in the close vicinity, is a thing we have a perfect right to protest against.

About Rs.4,000 is issued weekly in this District to enable our coolies to procure cheap provisions at the markets which have taken years to establish,

It is the weekly cash which the arrack vendors are after, and hang round like a pack of jackals to cut off coolies on their way to the markets to procure stores. The result is, that a man who is entrusted with the total weekly cash for a whole family is enticed to drink and then fleeced at those arrack taverns with the result that the whole family starves, or has to run up debt and buy provisions at some local "cudday" at exorbitant prices.

I trust that the Resolution passed at the U. P. A. will have some effect, but we must also press the subject with His Highness's Government and point out that if some redress is not given, the weekly cash system will have to be abandoned, which will mean the closing of the markets which have been a great benefit to the District and we will have to go back to the old system of estate bazaars.

Labour Recruiting and Emigration.

This, Gentlemen, is a matter of great importance to the whole Planting Industry of Southern India at the present moment. The keen competition for labour for the Straits, and Ceylon, to say nothing of our new rubber Districts, is bringing about the inevitable result, that the well known labour centres are being overrun with foreign recruiting agents, and it lies with the Planters of Southern India, who have more knowledge of the country, to be on the alert, and try and exploit new ground. There are complaints from several Districts that our advanced labour is being enticed to Ceylon and the Straits, and such cases are becoming more common every day; but unless we show some combination amongst ourselves, we are not likely to make much headway against this.

A Committee has been appointed to go into this matter and I hope we shall shortly hear what they are doing in the matter, but, I feel sure that in the same way as we are doing at present framing labour rules both here and at Mundakayam for inter-District disputes, the U. P. A. will have to do the same for inter-District troubles. That this will not meet with general approval I quite expect, but unless we are prepared to stand by one another, I don't see much chance of our doing much against the emigration of labour for foreign countries. As the competition becomes keener inter-District troubles will increase, and if kanganies or maistries are allowed to think that by bolting to another District they will escape liability, for old debt, we will find ourselves in a very bad way.

The remedy will be new Labour Act, but personally speaking, unless Government see their way to sanction the amendments as asked for, and it is taken up unanimously by all the Planting Districts, I do not see the use of it.

Rubber Exhibition.

This seems to have been a great success, and the Travancore and Cochin Stall seems to have drawn a lot of attention, as the following extracts of a letter from Messrs. Rowe, White & Co., who undertook the arrangements, bear out:—

"The Exhibition opened on Monday and we think it should prove interesting to all those who are in any way connected with rubber. Your stand looks well, although such a small exhibit of rubber was available. You will be glad to hear that the Travancore stand has attracted a great deal of attention the last few days, Sir Henry Blake paying two or three visits and bringing many of his friends, who asked for information concerning the country, and we have no doubt it has been the means of bringing the opportunities which this District offers before a very wide circle."

Since then I have read a very interesting article in the *Indian Rubber Journal* on our exhibit, which also includes a photograph of the Stall. Munjamullai rubber is mentioned but they have got a bit mixed as to the elevation at which our rubber samples were grown, as it is stated as varying from 3,500 feet to 4,500 feet; whereas it should be 500 feet to 2,500 feet. We have been fortunate in securing Mr. J. A. R. Clark to preside over our Stall as he is interested in the new method of tanning leather, by the use of rubber, besides being an old Travancore Planter himself.

I think our money has been well spent in regard to this exhibit, and the pamphlet has also been a great success.

We are greatly indebted to Messrs. Rowe, White & Co., for the interest they have taken in the matter and to Messrs. Holder and Mead, who gave a lot of time and attention to our exhibit. I expect a few copies of the pamphlet by post, and more will follow. I will be glad to receive orders for same at Re.1 per copy.

"PLANTERS' CHRONICLE."

This, under the editorship of Mr. Ormerod, has made rapid strides during the last year, and is now a very interesting paper on Planting matters. I should like to draw your attention to the very cheap scale of advertisements which I think we ought to take greater advantage of.

MEETING AND CIRCULARS.

The following Resolution will come before the Meeting and I will then ask you to express your decision on the matter.

"That it is referred to District Associations to decide that ex-Chairman and ex-Planting Members of Council be allowed to attend Meetings and speak, but not to vote and also to receive circulars and proceedings while in India if they intimate their wish to the Secretary."

Proposed by Mr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Nicoll: "That the Association approve of ex-Chairmen and ex-Planting Members attending and speaking at Meetings of the U. P. A. S. I. and when they are not members of any District Association they should receive copies of circulars—*Carried unanimously.*

This I think covers all that directly concerns our Association, but as I had not the Book of Proceedings to refer to, I have had to trust to memory, so I must ask you to make allowances for anything I may have missed out

Proposed from the Chair:—

"That a vote of thanks be given to Mr. Richardson for representing the Association at Bangalore."—*Carried unanimously.*

Proposed from the Chair:—

"That a vote of thanks be given to Messrs. Rowe, White and Co., for the trouble which they have taken over the Rubber exhibits."—*Carried unanimously.*

LABOUR RULES.

The following Rules were put before the Meeting:—

I. Taking on of the discharged kanganies.

The written sanction of the Superintendent of the estate where the kangany was last employed shall be procured in all cases.

II. The returning of, or the paying up the debt of, inter-estate bolting coolies.

Such coolies to be returned, or their debt paid up at the option of the Superintendent of the estate to which they belong, any balance pay that they may have earned on the estate to which they bolted shall be handed over to the estate to which they belong.

III. The paying the debt of, or returning of, twice advanced coolies.

Coolies under advance to any one estate, bolting to the low country, and coming up to another estate within six months of the date of their departure from the estate for which they were originally advanced, shall be handed over, or their advance paid up, at the option of the Superintendent of the estate first advancing.

When the first advance has been recovered, in cases where coolies have been handed over as above, they shall be returned or their second advance paid up to the estate to which they came up secondly.

If a longer period than six months has elapsed, the second advance shall be recovered first, and afterwards the coolies shall be handed over, or their advance paid up, to the estate which originally advanced them.

Any balance pay earned by coolies on the second estate to be retained against advance made by that estate.

Any balance there may be on the first estate after the debt to that estate has been worked of, to be handed over the second estate.

On the event of two advances having been made in the village, that proved to be of the earliest date shall have prior claim, and the coolies belong to that estate, subsequent treatment to be on the lines laid down under Rule III.

The Committee recommend under Rs.8 should be considered under these Rules.

That copies of any Rules, these amended or adopted or any other rules of a similar kind, be printed and circulated.

That a standing Labour Committee be appointed to which disputes under these Rules should be referred.

Such Committee's decision to be absolutely final and binding to any member having signed the Labour Rules.

That the Rules do not apply to Varrum labour and these Rules be signed by every member of this Association.

Proposed by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Nicoll: "That the Rules be put in force, on a six months' trial, and copies in English, Tamil and Malayalam, be circulated to all estates."—*Carried unanimously.*

FITTER FUND.

The balance-sheet was put on the table.

Proposed by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Westaway:—

"That the balance sheet be circulated among members."—*Carried unanimously.*

Mr. Deane's Resolution was next brought up by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Nicoll:—

"That the restoration of a Telegraph Office at Kangirapally is of great importance and that its urgency be laid before the Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs."—*Carried.*

Mr. Nicoll's Resolution seconded by Mr. Lacey:—

I. "That His Highness's Government be asked to arrange with the British authorities re-keeping a more stringent watch on the rise of water in the Periyar dam, to avoid disaster similar to or worse than that which occurred last year.—*Carried.*

II. Mr. Nicoll's Resolution seconded by Mr. Lacey.

"That the Honorary Secretary be asked to write to the Government with regard to the stock of salt in Peermade Bankshall having run out, causing much inconvenience and loss thereby.

Resolved—"That the Honorary Secretary do write and find out if no salt was available at the Peermade Bankshall on 7th October, 1908, and, if so, this Resolution be recorded."

With a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting closed.

(Signed) FREDERICK E. THOMAS,
Honorary Secretary,
Central Travancore Planters' Association.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held on the 11th November, at Meppadi Club.

Present:—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, Messrs. H. ATZENWILER, B. M. BEHR, F. C. EWART, D. MACKENZIE, W. R. M. MACKENZIE, D. H. MCLEOD, W. MACKINLAY, B. MALCOLM, S. H. POWELL (Junr.), A. TROLLOPE, A. WEST, and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Visitor.—Mr. J. Elphinston.

In the Chair.—Mr. W. R. M. Mackenzie.

General Correspondence.—READ and approved.

1411. *Mr. H. Parry.*—The Meeting recorded with regret the news of the death of Mr. Hugh Parry, and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to convey to the members of his family an expression of our sympathy and condolence.

1413. *Roads No.* 38.—*Chundale-Sholadi.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to President of District Board, Malabar. Approved. It was resolved to ask President of District Board if there are funds likely to lapse to have same spent on collection of metal, between now and end of financial year, in order to have metal available for spreading next year.

1414. *Road No.* 39—*Sultan's Battery, Cherambadi.*—READ letter from President of District Board, Nilgiris. Recorded.

1415. *Rail Freights on Tea.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to the Traffic Manager, South Indian Railway, and his reply as follows:—"I am quite willing to reduce the rates now in force, if you will kindly let me know the highest rate the traffic can stand." Recorded with satisfaction. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask the Indian Tea Association what rates are paid in Northern India.

1416. *Liquor Shops in Vicinity of Estates.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to Collector of Malabar. No reply to our request that license for shop 12th/13th mile, Chundale-Sholadi Road, shall not be renewed has yet been received.

1417. *Sale of Factory Sweepings.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to the Secretary of the Indian Tea Association and his reply advising that definition of "Sweepings" accepted in Northern India is "waste and dust which accumulates on rafters, machinery, floors, &c., in factories and is swept up." READ letters addressed to Anamalai, Kanan Devan, Central Travancore and Nilgiri Associations. The Honorary Secretary informed the Meeting that Messrs. Wapshare, Nicolls and McLeod had written agreeing to promise made at last Meeting by members then present to destroy all sweepings. Promise has now been agreed to unanimously by all members of this Association interested in tea. (Since date of the Meeting a reply has been received from the Anamalai Planters' Association informing us they agree to our proposal).

1418. *The Vayitri Magistrate.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to District Magistrate. Approved. In view of complaints of want of notice as to when sittings are to be held at Meppadi, the Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask District Magistrate that Court may be held there on fixed dates each month as was the case some time back.

1419. *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.*—READ correspondence. The Honorary Secretary to obtain and lay before Association copy of the Act.

1420. *Labour Recruiting and Emigration.*—Discussed Act V of 1866. The matter to be left over till next Meeting.

1421. *Amalgamation of Wynaad and Calicut Taluk Boards.*— READ note from President of District Board, Malabar, *re.* above, addressed to members of

the District Board. This Association considers Calicut as Head-quarters of the combined Taluk Boards as preferable to Manantodi, but thinks that at least every third Meeting should be held in Wynaad.

1422. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. Circulars Nos. 42 to 50.
I. T. A. Circulars Nos. 15 and 16.
Tea Statistics, September.
" Malabar Daily News."
I. T. A. Report of the Committee, 1907.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) W. R. M. MACKENZIE,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

The next Meeting will be held on the *2nd December*, not the 9th, as per ordinary Rules.

Mr. A. J. Grant Cook arrived in Ceylon on October 18th to represent Messrs. W. A. Courtney & Co., Ltd., recently formed in New York by Mr. Courtney, Ceylon's ex-Commissioner to America. The Company has been formed with a capital of 300,000 dollars to import Ceylon tea to America and distribute it to wholesale firms throughout the United States and Canada. Mr. Courtney is the President of the Company, and Mr. Tallis, well-known in the trade in New York, is the general manager. For the present the Company is confining itself to tea. Mr. Grant Cook, speaking to a press representative, expressed the opinion that ' afternoon tea is coming in strongly at present in America, and, as the people who have introduced it are consumers of Ceylon tea, it is our tea that is benefiting by it. Of course, I am referring to British-grown tea, but there is more pure Ceylon than Indian tea being drunk. Figures are often rather misleading, because they do not take any account of the stock but merely show the imports during the year. When stocks have accumulated at all they have large stocks to go through. The slowness with which Americans take to tea is, of course, due in a great measure to the fact that the ordinary people do not the know the way to brew tea. The way they generally do with Japan tea is to put it in the kettle, or some other utensil, and let it boil all day, with the result that they merely have a stewed tea. If they made tea properly the great probability is that they would drink much more. Ceylon tea cannot now be ousted from the United States. Our advertising has been backed up by the real merit of our teas and those who have tried them will stick to them."

Custom House Returns in the United Kingdom point to a declining taste for Chicory. In the year 1907-08, the quantity imported was 1,500 tons less than in 1906-07, and the consumption of home-grown Chicory also decreased materially.

Consumption of Coffee in the United Kingdom was 5% greater in 1907-08 than in 1906-07; the yield of the Coffee Duty showed an increase from £175,216 to £183,624.

	Quantity. cwts.	Net Duty. £
1903-1904	269,398	188,065
1904-1905	257,159	179,485
1905-1906	259,326	181,167
1906-1907	250,383	175,216
1907-1908	263,137	183,624

Taking 13,300 tons as the average, it is not exactly pleasant to note that the average annual imports of Chicory during the same period were about 3,750 tons.

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extracts from Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on 10th November, 1908.

Correspondence with the Indian Tea Association (London).—Letters, dated 16th and 23rd October, from the Indian Tea Association (London) were brought up for disposal. The principal subjects dealt with in them were as follows:—

Anti-Tea-Duty League.—The question of the continuance of this League was dealt with in the letter of 16th October. The General Committee some time ago gave it as their opinion that if the League were to be successful in its future work some change would be necessary in regard to its organisation and Executive; at the same time the view was expressed that the agitation in favour of a reduction in the duty should not be allowed to lapse, and the suggestion was made that, if Sir James Buckingham were to undertake the work of the League, there would be a return of the confidence in it which had to some extent been recently lost. The matter had been discussed by the London Committee who, had decided to await Sir James Buckingham's return to business before coming to a final decision, although they were of opinion that he would not have the time necessary for the work of the League. It was mentioned, too, that Mr. Roberts, who has been Chairman of the League for the past four years, could not, owing to lack of time, continue longer in that position. Some difficulty was also experienced in regard to the funds, as voluntary subscriptions are not found to bring in a sufficiently large income; the slight support formerly given by the trade has been withdrawn, and the London Committee feared that unless distributors and grocers could be induced to join—which they did not think would be possible—there was little likelihood of the League doing any good.

The views of the London Committee were considered, and it was agreed that nothing could meantime be done beyond again expressing the belief to London that the League must be re-organised if it is to receive the support of the industry.

Franco-British Exhibition.—The list of awards for Indian teas obtained at the Exhibition has now been received from London. They include one Grand Prix for the Association's collective exhibit, five Diplomas of Honour, 14 Gold Medals, 17 Silver Medals, 11 Bronze Medals and 6 Diplomas of Honourable Mention.

Scientific Department.—Mention was made in the Proceedings of last meeting of a report submitted by Dr. Hope in regard to the work going on at Heeleaka. A further report which has since been received from him dealt with the progress made in the latter part of October. All light hoeing has now been completed and a beginning has been made of the clearing of a waste piece of ground for additional experiments, the actual details of which have not yet been fully arranged; the chief objects of these further experiments will be to study the effects of different methods of treatment of young bushes on their general development, special attention being paid to root development. In regard to plucking, Dr. Hope proposed to pluck three more rounds and when this has been done the leaf returns for the year for the various plots will be determined. In the laboratory the usual routine work is being carried on and some progress has been made with the investigation of the rate of decomposition of manures.

Deforestation in Darjeeling.—In the Proceedings of 13th October it was mentioned that the Government of Bengal had deputed the Divisional Forest Officer of Kurseong to examine and report on the Rungbong and Balasun Valleys in the coming cold weather in connection with the alleged effects of deforestation; and it was arranged to ask the Darjeeling Planters' Associ-

ation to indicate whether any points occurred to them which might be specially brought to the notice of Mr. King Robinson, the Forest Officer. The reply of the Darjeeling Association, dated 6th November, was now before the Committee: it was to the effect that they had no special recommendations to make at this stage of the enquiry.

Future Work at Heeleaka.

The following is the programme of experimental work to be carried out at the Heeleaka Experimental Station by Mr. C. M. Hutchinson, Scientific Officer to the Indian Tea Association, during the season 1908 and following years:—

Manurial Experiments.

It has been pointed out in previous reports that the economic value of such manures as Superphosphate and Sulphate of Potash depends largely upon their residual effect, and that their comparatively high price must be counter-balanced by a corresponding maintenance of the increased yield which they produce. With a view to elucidating this point, a system of manurial rotation has been instituted, based upon the assumption that the amounts of Phosphates and Potash originally applied to the plots Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the bushes for at least three years, whilst Nitrogen, as Nitrate of Soda, will be supplied annually. These four plots originally received dressings of Phosphatic and Potash manures in the form of Superphosphate (Nos. 4 and 6—3 cwt. per acre), and Basic Slag (Nos. 5 and 7—5 cwt. per acre), whilst all four plots received 2 cwt. Sulphate of Potash. Nitrate of Soda was applied at the rate of 2½ cwt. per acre to Nos. 6 and 7 and the greatly increased yield of these two plots was obviously due to its action in combination with the Phosphoric Acid and Potash, its absence in Plots Nos. 4 and 5 producing a correspondence diminution of yield as compared with the former. These applications were repeated in the second year, but no manure was applied in the third, and it is now proposed to make use of these four plots as the starting point of a manurial rotation, in which the original dressings will be depended upon to supply Phosphates and Potash for the next two years, the more rapidly exhausted Nitrogen being applied annually.

In previous publications stress has been laid upon the value of a proper proportion between the various ingredients of a manurial mixture, and specially as regards the amount of Nitrogen, any excess of which may be regarded as injurious. In a mixture of Superphosphate, Sulphate of Potash, and Nitrate of Soda, the two former may be considered as coming into action as plant foods with comparative slowness, whilst the Nitrogen in the latter is already available, so that in a manure of the above composition the effective ratio of Nitrogen to Phosphates and Potash varies as the season advances, being high at the commencement but rapidly becoming less by reason of the great solubility of the nitrates in rain water, and the inability of the soil to retain them as it does Phosphoric Acid and Potash. Thus, in supplying nitrogenous manures, we have two points to consider, first, the liability to lose Nitrogen in drainage water, and secondly, the difficulty of maintaining the proper proportion between the supply of this element and that of the Phosphoric Acid and Potash; the importance of preserving the proportion throughout the year is especially great in connection with a leaf crop, the uniform quality of which has to be maintained, so far as is possible, for some six consecutive months. The adoption of the annual small dose of oilcake in preference to the triennial large one is an admission and recognition of this state of affairs, and it is now proposed to take further steps in the same direction by extending the principle of the small dose, and applying it not only to differentiate annual from triennial applications, but to modifying the method of manurial treatment throughout the season. The method depends upon the assumption that the greater success of the annual small dose of manure is principally due to the fact that the roots of the tea bush are only able to take up a limited amount of nitrate in solution during any given

period of time, and that any excess present in the soil is lost by removal in drainage water. In order to avoid such loss, it would then seem necessary to supply the nitrogenous manure in small doses at frequent intervals, and this method is now being adopted in the various experimental plots receiving Nitrogen, whether in the form of Oilcake, Animal Meal, Nitrate of Soda, Sulphate of Ammonia, or Nitrate of Potash. The following table shows the arrangement of the plots and the amounts of the manures applied :—

Table No. 1.

Plot No.	Manure.	Rate per acre.	No. of doses.
2	Ammonium Sulphate	2 cwt.	2
2a	Do.	1 „	1
3	Nitrate of Soda	2⅔ „	2
3a	Do.	1⅓ „	1
4	Do.	1½ „	3
5	Do.	1½ „	3
6	Do.	1½ „	3
7	Do.	1½ „	3

In the above series, Nos. 4 and 6 originally received dressings of Superphosphate (3 cwt. per acre); Nos. 5 and 7 being manured with Basic Slag (5 cwt. per acre): all four plots received Sulphate of Potash (2 cwt. per acre): the object of the experiment being to determine the residual effect of these minerals in conjunction with repeated doses of Nitrate of Soda.

In order to complete this experiment, four plots have been arranged as follows, making use of the Nos. 3 and 4 of the Pruning Plots which are no longer required for experimental pruning; on these plots the relative merits of the divided and of the single dose, it is hoped, will be ascertained.

Plot No.	Manure.	Per acre.	No. of applications.
3	Oilcake	6 mds.	3 of 2 mds.
3a	Do.	6 „	1 „ 6 „
4	Animal Meal	3 „	3 „ 1 „
4a	Do.	3 „	1 „ 3 „

This method of application will be further tested on Plot No. 20, Manurial Series, where the annual application of Nitrate of Potash on both halves of the plot will be sub-divided, the one receiving its dressing in two doses, the other in five doses.

Mention has been made in a previous report of the apparently rapid action of Cattle Manure trenched into the soil as compared with the same manure buried with the deep hoe. In order to test this point, cattle manure has been applied on plots Nos. 17 and 18 at the rate of 200 maunds per acre, on No. 17 in trenches and on No. 18 with the deep hoe. The trenches were cut in every row and were approximately eighteen inches deep and five inches wide. The deep hoe was at the rate of twelve nolls and penetrated to an average of nine inches.

The amount of each constituent of these manurial applications has been arranged with no previous knowledge of the precise quantities required by the tea bush under various conditions; it is hoped, however, that the continuation of the experiments of these plots in the manner indicated above will afford valuable information as to the quantities which can be applied most economically. To investigate this matter thoroughly would involve the laying out of a large number of plots, and it has been decided, in accordance with the opinion expressed by the local Advisory Committee, that in view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining the necessary labour to work those plots already in operation, it would be inadvisable to undertake any further extension at present. Certain plots, however, have been set out for the purpose of determining, so far as is possible, the amounts of organic manures,

such as Oilcakes and Animal Meal, which can most economically be applied: they are arranged as follows:—

Table of Quantitative Experiment on Oilcake and Animal Meal.

Plot No.	Manure.	Amount per acre.
7	Animal Meal	3 mds.
7*a.*	No Manure	...
8	Animal Meal	5 mds.
8*a.*	Do. do.	7 „
9	Oilcake	6 „
9*a.*	No Manure	...
10	Oilcake	10 mds.
10*a.*	Do.	15 „

It will be seen that the relative amounts of Cake and Animal Meal are in the proportion of two to one, this being in accordance with their relative Nitrogen content, and also approximately with their cost.

By the kindness of Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Co., I have been able to arrange for the laying out of other experimental plots on gardens in their agency, in Assam, Sylhet, and in the Dooars; and it is hoped that much valuable information will be obtained from these plots as to the variations in quantity of manures required by the differences of climate and soil obtaining in these widely separated districts.

Potash Salts.—Two plots, Nos. 15 and 16, have been set aside for the purpose of determining the value of Potash as an ingredient of manurial mixtures.

No. 15 has received an application of—

Superphosphate	3 cwt.
Sulphate of Potash	2 „
Oilcake	5 mds.

No. 16 has been similarly treated, the Potash, however, being omitted. It is probable that Potash is an essential constituent of manurial applications on all soils with but few exceptions, the amount required, varying with the composition of the soil, being less on heavy clays than on light sandy soils, and in all probability being considerably less than that which has been applied in many cases where this manure has formed part of a mixture.

Bone Manures.—The value of Bones for manurial purposes in tea culture has been a matter of considerable doubt, and the absence of reliable statistics bearing on this point has made it advisable to investigate the question. With this object in view, a series of plots was laid out at Heeleaka in 1907 and kept under observation during the following season. The manures were applied as follows: —

Table of Bone Manure plots.

Plot No.	Manure.	Rate per acre.
1.	No Manure	... ..
2.	½-inch Bones	1-3 ton
3.	Bone Meal	1-3 „
4.	Dissolved Bones	8 cwt. 86 lbs.
5.	Oilcake	4 „ 72 „
6.	{ Oilcake }	4 „ 72 „
	{ Superphosphate }	8 „ 86 „

The amounts of Oilcake and Superphosphate were regulated to correspond with the Nitrogen and Phosphate content of the bones.

Unfortunately the tea selected for this experiment, although apparently even in character, has proved on investigation to be situated on soil of such variable composition, as to render the results obtained from these plots unreliable for comparative purposes, on the yield of leaf for one season; it is therefore proposed to continue the experiment with a view to obtaining information by observing the variation of each individual plot from year to year, noting any improvement or otherwise, as compared with the behaviour of the unmanured control plot. So far, no manurial effect has been observed, which is more or less in accord with the generally received opinion as to the comparative slowness of action of bones as a manure, but it is difficult to understand why no increase of yield should have occurred on the plot treated with Dissolved Bones.

Green Manures.—As described in the report on this station for 1907, the relative merits of five green manuring crops have been tested during three consecutive seasons (1905 to 1907). It is now intended to leave these plots untreated, in order to ascertain the residual effect of the crops grown on them. Plot No. 1, originally unmanured, and No. 4, planted with *Crotolaria striata*, have now been planted with *Tephrosia candida* (Boga Medeloa) which will be allowed to remain, on one plot for two seasons and on the other for three; the extended use of this plant, and the remarkable results obtained by its growth, making it advisable to determine its value by careful experiment. It is proposed to utilise the remaining green manure plots as starting points for further experiments on manurial rotation.

The effect of green manures on young plants is being tested in the clearance planted out with six months' old seedlings in June, 1906. *Tephrosia candida* in particular has already produced a marked improvement in the young plants on that portion of the clearance interplanted with this bush.

In addition to the experiments described above, certain problems connected with the culture of tea are now being investigated; these include a series of observations on the chemical and other changes which take place in organic matter buried in the soil, in the form of green manure, prunings, oilcake and cattle manure; the information thus obtained it is hoped will help to elucidate some important points in connection with the practical use of these materials, especially with reference to the depth in the soil and the time at which they may most advantageously be applied. Some data may be obtained in this way which will serve as a guide in applying nitrogenous manures throughout the growing season.

Nitro-Bacterine.—Experiments are being carried out, both in the laboratory and in the field, in connection with the use of Nitro-Bacterine, the bacterial culture prepared by Professor Bottomley; these are at present confined to the inoculation of *Mati Kalai*, and it is hoped that by the use of this method it may be possible to obtain good crops of this plant in soils which hitherto have required preliminary dressings of manure.

In the Laboratory.—The routine work of the laboratory will include investigation of methods for determining the manurial requirements of tea soils, analysis of leaf with reference to variation of quality, both natural and induced, and the analysis of soils and manures.

Mycological Work.—Mycological work will include the special investigation of the fungus diseases—Thread Blight and Grey Blight, and the so-called "Copper" Blight, together with any other questions which may arise in connection with this branch of enquiry. It may be pointed out that this part of the work of the Scientific Department is seriously prejudiced by its necessary relegation to a subordinate position consequent on the pressure of other work, nor is it possible for the Chief Scientific Officer to give the time required for the working out of the problems involved; the appointment of a Botanist to the Staff of the Department would remove this difficulty and certainly enable advances to be made in our knowledge of the fungus diseases of tea, our very superficial acquaintance with which at present restricts us to merely palliative measures in dealing with them.

PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF CEYLON.

Extracts from Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, held at Kandy, on Friday, 30th October.

FIBRES FOUND IN CEYLON TEAS.

READ letter from the Trading Company, Colombo. *Resolved*:—"That the letter be published and that a copy be sent to the Chamber of Commerce."

THE SECRETARY, CEYLON PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION,

Kandy.

COLOMBO,

26th October, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—By the last mail we were informed by our Head Office in Moscow to request you to draw the attention of the Planters to avoid the use of fibre broom-sticks in the Factory where teas are being packed as

THE MOHAMEDANS

in Russia who form a part of our tea buyers decline to purchase teas as they are under the erroneous impression that some of the fibre so found in teas from the estates in Ceylon (through the carelessness of the tea packer) being *bristles*. Therefore we shall feel obliged if you will kindly do the needful.—We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

THE TRADING COMPANY.

CROP ESTIMATES FOR 1909.

Resolved:—"That the Honorary Secretaries of District Associations be asked to furnish estimates of the principal products in their District for the coming year."

ANTI-TEA-DUTY LEAGUE.

Intimated that £53 17*s.* 10*d.* had been remitted to London as subscriptions to the Anti-Tea-Duty League from Members of the Association for 1908.

SIR ROPER LETHBRIDGE.

READ correspondence referring to the approaching visit of the President of the League (Sir Roper Lethbridge) to Ceylon. *Resolved*:—"That this Committee is in favour of continued support to the Anti-Tea-Duty League and that the Hon'ble Mr. Edgar Turner, Messrs. E. Rosling, W. Forsythe, Joseph Fraser and the Chairman and Secretary, Planters' Association, be appointed a Sub-Committee to make arrangements in connection with Sir Roper Lethbridge's visit."

SHOT-HOLE BORER.

READ letter from Mr. F. E. West (Acting Government Entomologist, suggesting the importation from Saxony of a predacious enemy (*Clerus formicarius*) of the Shot-hole Borer as a means of getting rid of this pest) such a course having been found very efficacious on West Virginia (U.S.A.) in the case of a plague of Scolytid bark and timber beetles. *Resolved*:—"That the matter be referred to Mr. E. E. Green, and that he be requested to make arrangements for the importation of these beetles, if he approves the suggestion; and to cable the estimated cost."

ABUSE OF CARDS INSTEAD OF TIN TICKETS.

Submitted correspondence forwarded by Government on the abuse of the concession allowed the Labour Commissioner of issuing cards in lieu of tin tickets. *Resolved*:—"That Mr. Rowsell be informed that previous instructions that such cards were only to be issued to *bona fide* excess coolies must be strictly adhered to and that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Hon. the Planting M.L.C. and the Chairman and Secretary, Planters' Association, be appointed to interview the Colonial Secretary on the question."

TEA.

Ceylon Import Duty.

As reported by the *Times of Ceylon*, Sir Roper Lethbridge, said in Ceylon last month:—

"The import duties now imposed by Ceylon and India respectively on imported teas, are at present, as you are aware, in both countries imposed on all imported teas, whether British-grown or foreign-grown. Now Ceylon at present, very wisely and, as I think, absolutely necessarily in defence of the reputation of her grand teas in the markets of the world, imposes an import duty of 25 cents. This substantial duty excludes from Ceylon the exhausted and other rubbishy teas of foreign countries such as China, Java and Japan. This, as I have said, is absolutely necessary for the protection of the character of Ceylon tea; but, unhappily as I think, India is not allowed to impose duties on imported teas any higher than five per cent. *ad valorem*, which is not much more than a farthing per lb. This restriction obviously is grossly unfair to the Indian producer, and facilitates the introduction from China of the rubbishy teas of which I have spoken of. What I have always earnestly advocated is

THE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF THE IMPORT DUTIES

on tea as between Ceylon and India, coupled with the maintenance of such a substantial duty in both countries on the import of foreign teas—that is, those which come from China, Java, and Japan—as would adequately safeguard the character both of the Ceylon and Indian teas. The net result to Ceylon would be this: She would obtain a remission of the five per cent. *ad valorem* duty in India on all teas that she sends to that country, and therefore a large expansion of the export trade of Ceylon tea to India might be expected. Similarly Ceylon would remit the 25 per cent import duty on Indian tea, but maintain it as against China and other foreign teas. I think it is most deplorable that there should be the slightest antagonism between the tea industries of Ceylon and India, and I think that they ought rather to combine to defend themselves and each other against

THE PIRATICAL INROADS OF FOREIGN PRODUCERS.

We all know that it is not in the least likely that Ceylon will ever send exhausted teas to India, or that India would ever send exhausted teas to Ceylon, merely because their ports are mutually open to each other, for, as a matter of fact, they are not addicted to such practices either within the empire or in foreign countries; but I think it is admitted by even the most charitably-disposed that there is always some danger of such teas being sent to us by foreign countries unless they are excluded by a substantial duty, because, as a matter of fact, we know that such teas are every year turned back from the ports of America. Ceylon and India ought to join hands to resist the rapid inroads made by China and other teas; but I think it might fairly be remembered in Ceylon that at the present moment the position of the Indian producer is a far worse one than that of the Ceylon producer, as they are only protected by an infinitesimal duty; and if that has in the past caused some regrettable acerbity on the part of the Indian planters in regard to their brethren in Ceylon, I think this fact may fairly be taken into account."

To a representative of the *Ceylon Observer* Sir Roper Lethbridge is reported to have said:—

"There ought not to be a duty of any kind between India and Ceylon on tea. But I am equally clear that Ceylon is wise to maintain the great reputation of her tea by keeping a substantial duty against foreign teas, especially the cheap and sometimes rubbishy products of China.

"I think also India ought to be permitted to impose the same substantial duty on the import of China and other foreign teas, which can only be needed in India where there is no large consumption of tea for the purpose of blending with the higher class British-grown tea, a process which, as in

Ceylon, would in my opinion, tend to injure the character both of India and of Ceylon teas. I believe this view—that is, absolute reciprocity between India and Ceylon Teas, coupled with some preference against the two cheap products of foreign countries—meets the support of the great body of planters both in Ceylon and in India."

The India and Ceylon Tea Industries.

The following is an account of an interview between Sir Roper Lethbridge and a representative of the *Times of Ceylon* on the 16th November :—

"Sir Roper Lethbridge has varied his plans regarding his tour in India and Ceylon owing to ill-health. He fears a change to a cold climate, and instead of going up-country now, he is proceeding to Bangalore, *via* Madras, leaving Colombo by the next B.I. Steamer at the end of this week, and will return to Ceylon next February.

"With hardly an exception, I am glad to find," Sir Roper remarked to-day, "that there is a strong feeling, with which I entirely agree, that whatever else is done the import duty of 25 cents now imposed on the imports of tea into Ceylon must be maintained, but that this determination is in no sense whatever one of hostility against the tea industry of India. It is simply for the purpose of safeguarding the good name of Ceylon tea; and surely it is merely a matter of commonsense that the duty of 25 cents is intended simply for this purpose and not in any way as a protective duty. that is to say not a duty devised for the purpose of maintaining or increasing the current prices of Ceylon tea. For the tea that is imported is obviously not intended for local consumption, but simply for the purpose of blending, and if the tea so imported is poor stuff like the exhausted China teas that are rejected by America and Canada, and, in fact, by every country except Great Britain, India and Ceylon, it goes without saying that the so-called blending in that case would degenerate into mere adulteration of teas to be exported from this island as Ceylon teas. Surely, that must result in absolute ruin to the reputation of Ceylon tea on the strength of which the whole of this great industry has been built up. Precisely the same reasons apply to the import of rubbishy teas into India, for in that country there is no large local consumption. The teas imported are used simply to be blended with Indian teas and are re-exported under the pretence of being Indian tea, which must in time seriously affect the reputation of Indian tea. The only possible way of safeguarding the reputation of Ceylon and Indian tea is by the imposition of such a duty on imported tea as will render this adulteration unprofitable. Ceylon has most wisely adopted this remedy and India would do the same if she could, that is to say, if she were permitted to do so by the home Government. All that is permitted to India by the home Government is the absolutely insignificant import duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, or not much more than a farthing a pound on the average. Of course, the reason given for this restriction is the absurd one, opposed to the most elementary laws of political economy, that a higher duty might act as a protection in favour of the Indian tea industry—a reason that might have some validity if the imported teas were intended for local consumption in competition with Indian teas. This then obviously is a serious grievance to all Indian tea planters, and it is hardly surprising that they sometimes point out, with some acerbity, that if such a tax would be protective of the Indian tea industry, then the existing tax in Ceylon must naturally be protective of the Ceylon industry. Of course it is not protective in either case, but I am sorry to say that such arguments have considerable weight with the more ignorant section of those who call themselves free-traders, and might ultimately result in some doctrinaire free-trade Government at home insisting on the abolition of the Ceylon import duty or its reduction, at least, to the Indian level; which is a useless one. For this reason, if for no other, I am strongly of opinion that the Ceylon tea industry would be well advised if it warmly supported the Indian tea planters in their efforts for such a duty as would exclude exhausted teas. If Ceylon and India were united on this point (and I fully believe that the planters of both countries are so united in heart) I see no reason why the present Government should refuse its assent. For it should be remembered

that in the case of the South African Customs Union the present Government has offered no objections, I believe, to the imposition of a duty of four pence per lb. on all teas imported into the Union, which has had this excellent result—that the growing tea industry of Natal is not only safeguarded against the ruin of its reputation by the import duty on exhausted teas, but further it has practically secured for Natal tea such a preference throughout the South African Customs Union as must enable it to hold its own against all comers, whether from China, Java or Japan. It has often been suggested that Australia and other self-governing colonies may receive from the South African Customs Union, and give to that Customs Union similar preferential treatment, and such an arrangement would certainly ensure the future of Natal tea throughout the Colonies. I think that the possibility of such an arrangement should be carefully borne in mind both in Ceylon and in India, for whilst the motive of such an arrangement would, doubtless, be the exclusion of rubbishy teas from China, Java and Japan, still it is obvious that India and Ceylon would suffer from it equally with the foreigner, unless they were in such a position as to be able to ask for inclusion in such Colonial preference. I am glad to say I have quite satisfied myself that very nearly, if not quite, the whole of the tea industry of Ceylon sees clearly that in this matter its interests are absolutely identical with those of India."

The Anti-Tea-Duty League.

QUESTION OF THE CESS.

Sir Roper Lethbridge added, with regard to the question of the continuance of the Anti-Tea-Duty League, that, not having met any body of planters or persons interested in the tea industry in a corporate capacity, he was unable yet to arrive at a definite opinion as to the views of Ceylon. However, he has had ample evidence of the fact that there is a strong feeling that the League did a great service to the industry in bringing about the reduction of three pence, and that, if the Government is left alone, it is very likely that part, if not the whole, of this will be re-imposed. Sir Roper is aware that in future there can be no contribution from Cess funds to the League, and greatly regretting as he does the fact that the Cess is to be stopped, he remarked that if its continuance depended on the League not receiving any contribution from the funds it would willingly enter into an undertaking not to apply for or accept any such contribution. He hopes to meet the planters officially at their meeting when he returns in February, as well as if possible at a meeting in Colombo of representatives of all the tea interests.

The British Tea Duty.

The *Times of Ceylon* of the 6th November, 1908, contains the following:—

"Sir Roper Lethbridge, the well-known President of the Anti-Tea-Duty League, was good enough to give a *Times of Ceylon* interviewer to-day his views on the question of the British duty on tea and the need, if any, of the League continuing its work.

Asked what he thought were the prospects of a reduction of the tea duties or, on the other hand, of an enhancement of those duties, Sir Roper said: "That is a question to which I find it difficult to reply with any confidence. We all know that the claims on the British exchequer this year must run to fabulous amounts. Mr. Lloyd George will have to provide for Old Age Pensions, and for measures to feed the unemployed, which will, I fear, be almost on the scale of Indian famine relief, and now, with the war scare in the Balkan Peninsula and the rapid increase of foreign navies, it seems quite certain that even the most economical Ministry will be forced to spend large sums on the increase of the British Navy. Consequently I am bound to say that in England there is a large body of opinion that prophesies rather an increase of the tea duties than any remission. It must be remembered that the tea duties are most easily collected, that any increase in this form of taxation will not involve any appreciable increase in the cost of collection, and that as a consequence to any Chancellor of the Exchequer the tea duties afford

The most obvious alternative to this form of taxation is, of course, an increase of the income-tax, but that already stands at a rate so burdensome that a very poweful organisation, headed by Lord Avebury, has been formed to demand a reduction, and *a fortiori* to oppose any increase of the income-tax. Moreever, any increase of the income-tax that seems at all possible will go a very little way towards meeting Mr. Lloyd George's requirements. These are the salient features of the financial position in England, and they are obviously not very hopeful from the point of view of those who, like myself, wish to see a reduction of the tea duties. As to

THE QUESTION OF MAINTAINING THE ORGANISATION

of the Anti-Tea-Duty League, that I think should depend absolutely on the feelings and wishes of those who are mainly interested, *viz.*, the tea planters of Ceylon and India and the various distributing branches of the industry. As you are aware, there is a section of the distributing trade that is opposed to any reduction of the duties. While the duties are high it is necessary for those firms who take tea out of bond to have large capital at their back, and this naturally suppresses the competition of smaller men and tends to keep the great distributing trade in the hands of a few very wealthy men, and it is only reasonable that they should wish to maintain the duties at a high level. Undoubtedly these gentlemen have special facilities for making their voices heard, and, of course, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is always glad to listen to them; but I do not know of any other section of the industry whose interests lie in this direction, and, therefore, it is very difficult to form any opinion as to the relative influence of those who wish for high duties, and of those who wish for low duties. As President of the Anti-Tea-Duty League, I am exceedingly anxious to learn from the leaders of the industry here in Ceylon and in India what are their views upon this question."

Java Tea In Australia.

Once China was the world's tea field. Then she was ousted by India, and, later, Ceylon. Now Java bids fair to take a substantial, if not principal, share in the filling of Australia's tea-cup. By the Royal Dutch Packet Company's steamer *Van Spilbergen* lately, arrived Mr. K. A. R Bosscha, head manager of the Malabar Tea Estate, one of the most important enterprises of the kind in Java.

"The object of my visit," said Mr. Bosscha, "is a business one, briefly, to gain what commercial information, and do what I can for the development of the tea trade between Java and Australia. Tea has been grown in the island for upwards of 80 years, but recently plantations have been widely extended and more vigorously conducted. Some of the estates are privately owned, but the majority are in the hands of companies. I base my belief in the future of this trade on two points, the amount of Australia's consumption of tea, and the suitability of Java as a source of tea supply. In Java the plantations are in the hills, mine, Malabar, being 5,000 feet above sea level. The climate is delightful, and the country a fairyland. They are reached by a satisfactory system of railways. The tea we grow is Assam tea, which has lately superseded China tea on most estates. For this the climate is an ideal one, and the output per acre reaches 1,500 lbs. annually, or more than double that of India and Ceylon. This result is assisted by the fact that labour, native Javanese, is much cheaper. Assam tea is held in high esteem for blending purposes. Mr. Lamb, an English expert well-known in Australia, holds decided views as to the prospects of trade with your country, and you will see how correct he is when I tell you that two or three years ago, when it began, the export of tea to Australia was just over 300,000 lbs., and is now over a million. But this is a mere fraction of the total Java output of 30 million. I hope in time to see Australia's entire wants supplied from Java, for it can be done more cheaply than from India. The bulk of the population consists of native Javanese. There are a few Chinese merchants, and a mere sprinkling of Europeans. The idea that the Japanese are settling in the island is groundless."

RUBBER.

Para Rubber Crops.

The proprietor of a young rubber plantation thinks it is quite time that some approximate estimates for yield per tree, according to size and age, should be furnished and he accordingly sends the *Ceylon Observer* the following table for the purpose of provoking discussion. He writes as follows :—

"Would enclosed table in the opinion of readers of your paper more experienced than myself in the yield of Para Rubber, be at all approximately correct for the moister low-country districts of Ceylon? I shall be much obliged if you are they will correct my figures. Of course trees vary very much, it is well-known, in their yield—size for size—and age for age; but still taken over a sufficient acreage it seems to me that useful tables, fixing on an average, might possibly be formulated respectively for different altitudes and rainfalls for 'Ceylon Para.'

"A table of yield if one at all reliable can be formulated would be valuable in estimating—both against value of property and crop. Lucky men indeed with Rubber in bearing. Likewise the man who read your senior's book of 20 years ago, in good time and to such good purpose."

The table is as follows :—

"PARA RUBBER : AVERAGE YIELD IN POUNDS PER TREE.

	5th year.	6th year.	7th year.	8th year.	9th year.	10th year.
18 ins. at 3 feet... ...	¼	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3
24 „ „	¾	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼
30 „ „	1	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼
36 „ „	...	1¼	1¼	1¾	2	2
42 „ „	...	...	1¾	2	2¼	2¼
48 „ „	...	...	...	2¼	2¾	3

N.B.—Trees of the same size but aged would yield probably more than younger trees, hence, up to a point, I adopt a sliding scale."

We referred the table to an experienced "V. A." for his opinion, and this is very favourably and tersely expressed :—

"This appears quite a fair estimate."

Another proprietary planter who saw the table, writes :—

"I am afraid my experience is not sufficient to justify my giving an opinion. We have harvested (tapped, I should say) some trees on——— but not insufficient quantity and in too irregular a system to form accurate data for publication. There were only some 200 trees or thereby I planted about 1899. We tapped these two years ago and got about ¼ to ½ lb. per tree. This year we have not tapped, as the small number made it too expensive to be worth while and at the time the estimate for the year was made out prices were very low; so we concluded to let the trees have a run until a larger number came into bearing. For my own part I wished the planting of Rubber to go on from the time I commenced, but my opinion was overruled, and I, having only a third say in the matter, could not get my wish. Had planting gone on, we should have had 400 to 500 acres, to tap or sell about the time Kepitigalla sold at such a high figure; but alas: they were not planted! We have about 1,500 trees at tapping age now, 101 acres of very good clearings Rubber alone, and the whole of the Tea with the exception of about 20 to 30 acres in rubber also."

Para Rubber in Brazil.

Mr. I. R. Martin, ex-Chairman of the Ceylon Planters' Association, writes as follows to the *Ceylon Observer*:—

HYLTON, MATALE, *November 15th.*

"I enclose extracts from a letter from a friend at Manaos which are, I think, of general interest. My friend has travelled in most tropical countries and is interested in Ceylon Rubber. The warning he gives as to the tapping of young rubber trees, most of us know now, is sound.

(EXTRACTS).

For the last two years the output of rubber from the Amazon district has been:—

	Para rubber.	Caucho.	Total tons.
1906-07	31,537	6,313	37,850
1907-08	29,725	6,955	36,680

For this year 1908-09, an amount the same at last year, or perhaps a little less, is expected. As you know, everything in this industry is done on credit system, and the recent slumps in rubber disorganised things; but with the better price, confidence is returning. Opinions as to the expansion of output from the Amazon basin are conflicting. One authority told me that it had nearly reached its maximum; another, that it would expand indefinitely. It is not true that the rubber gatherers destroy the trees. The trees yielding Caucho are certainly cut down, but as you will see, Caucho forms only a small part of the output. The *Hevea* trees are merely tapped, and not seriously injured. For instance, in the yearly output is included about 10,000 tons from the Islands near the mouth of the river. These trees are tapped year after year and it is evident they must be well taken care of.

For some months in the year the Amazon valleys are always flooded, and the trees stand—some of them—many feet deep in water, that is the secret of their fertility. No doubt, for trees such as ours, standing on high land, a heavy rainfall, added to a rich soil, may make up for some of this, but I fancy that Ceylon trees will always have to be more lightly tapped than those of the Amazon. The system of smoking the rubber seems to be better than that of chemical treatment, which I believe is adopted in the East. A relative study of the two methods seems advisable, but not knowing what the plantations method is I have not been able to enquire fully into the matter. The cost of producing Para rubber, including an export tax of about 20 per cent. is evidently not much, if anything, under 3*s.* a lb. At a superficial glance it looks as if—were rubber to fall permanently to 2/ or 2/6—this industry could not live. In a life and death struggle cost of production would certainly come down. The tax would be greatly reduced; business would be done on a cash basis; and imports that are now levied on the industry, and on those engaged in it, would no longer be tolerated. Still, you have the personal factor to reckon with. The bad climate, the heavy death rate, can only be made tolerable to the rubber gatherers by luxuries and a big wage. Cut off these and your workers will probably return to their homes in other parts of Brazil—while there is no local population to speak of.

On the other hand, I have come to believe that Para rubber, with all its impurities, is probably a better article than the plantations will ever produce. I understand that many manufacturers cannot do without it- and I believe that in time to come, should plantation rubber be selling at 2/ or 2/6 a lb, a sufficiently large premium will be put on Para rubber to allow of it being gathered at a profit. Of course I may be wrong, and have no expert knowledge to guide me. I travelled out, however, with a partner of a big rubber-buying house, he assured me that Para rubber will not be knocked out of the market, and that many of his customers will take nothing else. His interests, no doubt, are largely bound up with the Amazon, but his arguments seemed sound. He did not run down plantation enterprise, but pointed out its weak

spots. He particularly said, over and over again, that the plantations, in order to pay dividends, and keep their promises to shareholders about the yield, were forcing things, and doing very great harm to their prospects by putting out weak rubber. He pointed out that—for this reason—the premium of 6*d.* or 7*d.* a lb., which used to exist on plantations rubber, had already almost run off, and that his firm had received complaints from customers, as to the rapid falling off in the plantation article. He specially instanced—as an offender. This man's firm are very leading people in the rubber market, and no doubt you will give these statements due consideration. It would be a catastrophe if, at this date, Ceylon rubber were to get a bad name.

If shareholders are led to expect such big yields, and if—to keep to promise, or for stock market purposes—they try and rush things, tapping too soon, and too often, there is going to be much trouble.

This is an extremely hot place, and not attractive. Para I like better. The river there, 1,000 miles from the mouth, is over 1½ mile wide."

The Tapping of "Castilloa" Rubber.

The following extract from the introduction to the Mexico Section in the Rubber Exhibition Catalogue throws light on both the tapping of Castilloa and the preparation of the latex:—

"Taken as an ordinary cultivated tree, the Castilloa is as easy a plant to cultivate as any. When tapping, one has to remember that the latex tubes occur in the layer between the cambium and the outer bark, but, as they originate in cambium, and are constantly being added to from this tissue, it is impossible to draw a line of demarcation between these tissues, and so, unless the cambium is actually cut into, the maximum yield of latex cannot be obtained. A Castilloa tapping knife to work efficaciously should not only groove the bark of the tree, but be provided with a sharp cutter to penetrate into the cambium itself, and with a clean cut to open the latex tubes they contain without tearing or dragging at them. With a sharp knife and a clean cut, such wounds should heal over within 24 hours and cause the minimum of injury to the tree. Until lately, manufacturers complained that Castilloa rubber contained far too large a proportion of resin. At times this was not to be wondered at, when we are told that the percentage varied from 8 to 41 per cent. A new method of preparation has, however, been invented, by which it is claimed that the percentage of resin can be reduced to 3 per cent. and less and the rubber prepared by this process has been pronounced fully equal to the best hard pure Pará Plans of the machine which, it is claimed, is capable of turning out this high-grade Castilloa is on show at the stall of one of the leading firm of engineers."

Mr. T. Petch, Mycologist to the Government of Ceylon, writes to the *Ceylon Observer*:—

The root disease caused by *Fomes semitostus* is still confined to the areas in which it first appeared. It is proving rather difficult to exterminate on closely planted estates where the cost of removing jak stumps is considered prohibitive. It is scarcely possible to criticise the F.M.S. account until more is known about the fungus.

I am glad to see that the idea of burning prunings has obtained another adherent,—especially a chemist, for the chief objection to the practice is based on chemical considerations. Mr. Green's recommendation was withdrawn because of the "loss of nitrogen" bogey. When we know (*a*) how much nitogen is removed in the prunings, and (*b*) what percentage of this becomes available when buried, we shall be able to decide whether its value exceeds the value of the bushes killed by root disease and injured by shot-hole borer.

An event, which may have some bearing upon the Tea Trade in Russia, is the establishment in St. Petersburg of an Anglo-Russian Chamber of Commerce. This scheme has been fructifying for some time, and a section devoted to Russian commerce has now been opened in connection with the London Chamber of Commerce.

The Planters' Chronicle.

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INCORPORATED.

Labour Laws, &c

During a discussion in the Legislative Council of Fort St. George on the 9th December, 1908, with regard to a Bill to repeal the Madras Labour and Emigration Act, 1866, the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott said that he did not rise to oppose the passing of the Bill in any way. One hon'ble member had pointed out that Act V of 1866 was applicable to other parts of India. They had always looked upon it as a Bill specially passed to regulate emigration into planting Districts in those days, and as far as possible to restrict emigration into Coorg, Travancore, Mysore, and other parts of Southern India. The Planters of these parts would welcome the disappearance of this Act. They always looked upon it as a planting measure passed 40 years ago at a time when it was considered that the Planters or their agents who were recruiting for them could not be trusted to treat their coolies fairly and when it was thought necessary to put many restrictions on them before they were allowed to take away coolies from this Presidency to distant places. The repeal of that Act might, he supposed, be considered as an acknowledgment that the Planters outside the sphere of His Excellency's Government had reformed during the last 40 years and might be trusted more than they had then been. His only object in rising to speak on that occasion was to ask if the Government would not consider that the Planters in this Presidency might be treated with the same confidence as they were treating the people who were taking coolies away from their Government. Those of the Planters who were working under the Madras Planters' Labour Law were considerably hampered in recruiting coolies by provisions very much the same as those in the Act which it was now proposed to repeal; and they were at a disadvantage. If a maistry were to recruit coolies for any District where the Madras Labour Act was applicable, he had to take all his coolies before a Magistrate, and to have them examined by him and a certificate had to be made on their contracts that they understood all the terms contained therein, besides getting a certificate as to their physical fitness.

A point of order having been raised, His Excellency the Governor remarked that the hon'ble member was discussing an Act quite different from the one under consideration and was straying from the point at issue.

The Hon'ble Mr. Abbott then resumed his seat.

In commenting on the above speech, the *Madras Times* (10th December) took exception to Mr. Abbott's departure from the subject before the Council. Mr. Abbott, in a letter to the same paper, observes :—

"I have read your article in this morning's paper on what I said at the Legislative Council Meeting last Wednesday, and thank you for the friendly tone of your remarks about a subject on which we differ. My reference to the Madras Planters' Labour Law was perhaps unfortunate as it put me out of order. The point I was trying to make was this :—Act V of 1866 placed certain restrictions on recruiting for tea and coffee estates outside the Madras Presidency. Its repeal shows that Government considers that free recruiting for such estates may be safely permitted. But it has insisted on enforcing similar restrictions on Planters who want to recruit coolies for estates in the Madras Presidency. In fact it would almost seem that the Madras Government would rather see coolies emigrating than remaining to work in this Presidency. When Ceylon Planters want a railway built in India that will make the journey to Ceylon more comfortable for their coolies, their request receives immediate attention. But railways to Planting Districts in Southern India are definitely refused or indefinitely postponed. The other day when we asked to have a bridge built across a dangerous river that would facilitate transport to a Planting District that employs 25,000 Indian coolies all the year round and where over 2 million pounds have been invested, we were met with pained surprise, and told to go to the District Board authorities. I do not think that Planters in Madras are unreasonable when they ask to be allowed to recruit their coolies on the same terms as their neighbours."

Though in an indirect way, the "Planting Member" has thus succeeded in bringing some important "Planters' disabilities" before the Government and the public. He has also won support from the very paper which had criticised him, for the *Madras Times* wrote on the 11th ultimo :—

"It was, we must explain, merely the inconsequential way in which he introduced his subject at which we smiled, not the important subject matter of his speech. We have no doubt that if he had been allowed to go on and say what he wanted to say, that we should have been in complete accord with his sentiments. It is undeniable that the disabilities of Planters in India do not get sufficient recognition. Their interests are comparatively small in the vast and complex sea of requirements and demands against which the Government has to take up arms. The comparison between the demand of Ceylon Planters for a railway for cooly importation and the demand of Travancore Planters for one little bridge which Mr. Abbott makes, is to the point. The Ceylon railway connection, though in its subsequent importance it has grown out of its original form, was first asked for in the interests of the Planting community. But there is an aspect of its development which we think may well disturb Planters beyond the Pamban Straits. Is it not possible that when the Island and the mainland are so closely connected by rail, it may be suggested that money should be saved in administration by making Ceylon a portion of the Madras Presidency? We sincerely trust in the interest of the Planters of Ceylon that this may never be the case or they may learn what it is to be refused, even an inexpensive bridge which is all important to their industry. The Hon'ble Mr. Abbott refers no doubt to the Theni bridge in the Madura District about which Mr. J. A. Richardson, of Central Travancore, spoke very strongly at the Meeting of the United Association at Bangalore last August. He said that the want of the bridge was a source of danger to both life and property, and that its estimated cost was only a paltry sum of Rs.20,000. Its erection was promised by the responsible officials in 1905, and yet nothing has been done. It certainly is a matter which the Government ought to take up if it has the slightest desire to assist the Planting interest. It is unfair that a bridge which costs so little but means so much to a large and growing community, should not be put in hand at once when money is lavished on roads and bridges in Ootacamund which serve no great industries, but merely the convenience of holiday-making Government officials."

The British Tea Duty.

Writing to the Secretary, U. P. A. S. I., under date 20th November, 1908 the Secretary, Anti-Tea-Duty League, remarked :—

"I beg to enclose herewith copy of a letter which I am sending by this Mail to all the leading journals in the Tea Districts of India and Ceylon.

"You will note that this is a request for Five-rupee subscriptions, and I am circulating a similar appeal to our subscribers on this side for Five-shilling accounts.

"I trust that shortly I shall be instructed to issue an appeal to the various Tea Companies for subscriptions on a large scale, with a view to renewed activity in the Spring.

"Meanwhile, I trust that you will, as before, facilitate matters as much as possible on your side."

The Circular letter referred to reads as follows :—

"May I make use of your columns to urge all Planters and others interested in the Tea Industry to send in their subscriptions to this League as soon as possible?

"There is practically no doubt whatever that the Revenue returns for the year ending with March next will show a tremendous deficit, and that eighteen or twenty millions sterling of fresh taxation will have to be imposed.

"Unless a most strenuous effort is made, some of this money will have to be found by Tea, and it is of the greatest importance that we should get in funds at an early date. I trust, therefore, that our supporters in India will send in their Five-rupee subscriptions, either direct to me at this address, or to their Local Associations. Postal Orders crossed 'National Bank of India Account Anti-Tea-Duty League' or Rupee Notes may be sent. In all cases due acknowledgment will be made."

With the above was inclosed an extract from the *Morning Post* of 23rd November, 1908, as follows :—

"From 20 to 25 millions sterling is the Free Traders' estimate of the sum which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to raise next year by means of new taxation. The correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* reckons that the deficit arising from the falling-off in revenue, which reflects the falling-off in trade, will be £6,000,000; that Old Age Pensions will require £7,000,000; that the fulfilment of the National Naval Policy will involve £6,000,000, and that the cost of an education compromise will be £1,500,000, making a total of £20,500,000. But the *Spectator*, representing the forlorn cause of the Unionist Free Traders, brings the sum to no less than £25,000,000. It places the revenue shortage at £8,000,000 instead of £6,000,000, and the cost of Old Age Pensions at £8,000,000 instead of £7,000,000, agreeing in both points with the forecast of Mr. Harold Spender in a recent number of the *Contemporary Review*. In addition it adds £500,000 to the cost of the education compromise, and postulates £1,000,000 for the 'extra vote for Unemployed and for other items of 'social reform.'' It is interesting to note how various sections of Free Traders suggest that the deficit should be met. Mr. Harold Spender would raid the Sinking Fund to the extent of £10,000,000, and would expect to get £5,000,000 by means of increased Death Duties and a graduated income-tax, leaving £5,000,000 *more to be obtained by increasing other taxes.* In the *Manchester Guardian* the scheme foreshadowed is to obtain £6,000,000 from the Sinking Fund; £5,000,000 from high liquor licenses which are to avenge the expected fate of the Licensing Bill; £4,000,000 from Income Tax; while Land Values and Death Duties are to contribute to the remaining £5,500,000. To the *Spectator* alone belongs the glory of faithful adherence to the time-honoured principles of Free Trade finance. Instead of raiding the Sinking Fund or singling out certain classes of property-holders for vindictive taxation, it advocates this week 'a universal income tax which shall place under contribution not only all property-holders, but all wage-earners throughout the country.' There remains as a fourth alternative the

policy of Tariff Reform, which is calculated to obtain at a moderate estimate about £6,000,000 of revenue from imported food and about £12,000,000 from imported manufactures."

In this connection the following remarks from *Tropical Life* are interesting:—"We are forced to the conclusion that when the financial year closes in March next, nothing short of a miracle will prevent a deficit in revenue of at least £8,000,000. Then Old Age Pensions have to be provided for, and the most moderate estimate cannot place the amount required at less than £6,000,000. Probably £8,000,000 will be necessary. Mr. Asquith, speaking of the Navy, has assured us of his desire to maintain the two-power standard. If this is translated into action, probably another £5,000,000 must be provided for the Services next year. A million pounds has been promised for education for a long time. Thus, approximately, £20,000,000 of fresh money will have to be provided by Mr. Lloyd-George in April. Where can it come from? Even if he resorts to all the well-worn stratagems of Chancellors of the past, such as raiding the Sinking Fund and raising loans, most of which he has vigorously condemned, he will certainly have to impose fresh taxation to no inconsiderable amount. On sugar? How can he, after taking off a farthing per lb. only this year? The coal export duty? He has been one of the most outspoken in his condemnation of it. Corn and flour? His political life would not be worth a moment's purchase if he were to propose such a thing. Tea? Why, certainly; 3*d.* per lb. on tea would bring the tax no higher than it was in the days of the last Unionist Government, and why should not Tea Planters, who have no votes, help to bear part of our burden? Will it matter to a Chancellor of the Exchequer that a re-imposition of the 8*d.* duty would once more drive the price of tea down to below the cost of production? There is plenty of cheap tea to be got from China for the supply of Home markets, and Indian and Ceylon Planters will again be recommended to turn their attention with renewed vigour to developing business in such countries as Germany, where the duty is only 1½*d.* per lb., or Canada and the United States, with actually no duty at all.

"Seriously, though, it is of vital interest to the tea industry that facts should be at once looked in the face. It is probable, to say the least of it, that the re-imposition of the War tax on tea was only prevented last Budget by the vigorous action shown by the Anti-Tea-Duty League, and will not be delayed longer than next April, unless similar agitation, but on more strenuous lines, is initiated at once. The League claimed that at the General Election of 1906 some 150 or more Members of Parliament were returned to the House mainly by their instrumentality, in return for pledges given. It is common ground that these pledges have been broken. Why is not a vigorous agitation at once instituted in every one of those constituencies, in order that the broken pledges may be brought home to the delinquents? Is it of any use to wait until April, when the mischief will have been done?

The Anti-Tea-Duty League.

Sir Roper Lethbridge, K. C. I. E., President of this League, is still in Bangalore. His visit was chiefly due to a desire to recruit his health, but now that he has happily recovered from a nasty attack of bronchitis he is staying on in the hope of meeting representatives of the Tea industry of South India and discussing with them League and other matters.

In the course of an interview with a representative of the *Ceylon Independent* on December 12th, Sir Roper Lethbridge, correcting an error in the report of an earlier interview, said, in effect:—

"My statement regarding the alleged diversion of Cess funds for partisan political purposes in England was, as you will remember, in reply to an article that appeared in the *Independent*, a few days before our interview, in which it had been suggested that the Anti-Tea-Duty League had got the Colony 'into a mess' and that the connection of the Planters' Association with the League hand been 'disastrous.' But from the wording of your report it might be inferred by some readers that I was criticising the remarks of His Excellency the Governor on this subject in his Supplementary Address,

This I should not have presumed to do in any case. But further than this there was nothing in those remarks to which I would wish to take exception. For though His Excellency spoke of 'the unfortunate diversion of a portion of the Cess funds on one occasion to political purposes in the United Kingdom,' he did not blame for this either the Anti-Tea-Duty League or the Planters' Association, or, indeed, anybody else. The fact obviously is that the responsibility for using a portion of the Cess funds in the endeavour to obtain some remission of the taxation on Tea in the United Kingdom was clearly divided between the Ceylon Government, the Indian Government, and the Imperial Government at Home."

"It seems to me," continued Sir Roper, "that it would be absurd to blame the Planters' Association or the Cess Fund Committee for wishing to use some of the funds which they themselves had provided for the advancement of the Tea industry in the way most conducive to the interests of that industry. The efforts of the League resulted in the clear addition of 3*d.* per pound to the value of every pound of tea sent by Ceylon and India to the United Kingdom; and it is obvious that so great an advantage as that has not been obtained from all the other efforts put together that have been made by the use of the Cess funds. It is quite certain that the 3*d.* would never have been taken off the Tax, but for the work of the League. For there is not, and there never has been, anyone else to take the part of the tea consumer and the tea producer against the Chancellor of the Exchequer. For this reason I venture to think that the Cess Committee were well advised in their action.

"Next as to the action of the Anti-Tea-Duty League in this connection. It was taken before I personally took any part in its affairs and, therefore, I can speak of it with greater freedom, for at the time Sir West Ridgeway was the President and Mr. Herbert Compton was the Secretary. But I think it would be simply absurd for any one to blame them for accepting the help of funds subscribed by the Tea industry for the advancement of the Tea industry in a cause which they, like myself, considered absolutely the most useful for the interests of the Tea industry. Now, in this matter, both the Anti-Tea-Duty League and the Planters' Association and the Cess Committee were absolutely in the hands of the Government of the day; and if there were any impropriety or even any inconvenience, involved in using the Cess funds in this way, it was, of course, the duty both of the Ceylon Government and of the Indian Government, and of the Colonial Office and of the India Office, to stop such use, as they had absolute power to do. Instead of that, both Sir Henry Blake and the Ceylon Government, and Lord Curzon and the Indian Government, and the Conservative Government in England absolutely assented to this use being made of some portion of the Cess funds; for it is, of course, absurd to talk of their 'passing' this allocation of funds without approving of it, as to do so would be a gross dereliction of duty. Therefore, the full responsibility for this allocation of Cess funds must rest on the three Governments I have named, and it may certainly be admitted that for all three Governments as well as for the Anti-Tea-Duty League and the Planters' Association the net results may fairly be described as unfortunate. For as far as the late Conservative Government was concerned the Anti-Tea-Duty League by securing a return of 163 Liberal Members to the present Parliament and only one Conservative Member proved to be the main factor in the defeat of the Conservative Party at the last General Election; and since in the matter of votes it may be admitted that the Liberal Party is always wiser in its generation than the Conservative Party. I am not at all surprised that the present Liberal Government takes care to prevent all possibility of their being treated as their Conservative predecessors were treated. The Conservative Government had, doubtless, considered that any such veto as that which is now imposed on the Cess fund would be an undue interference with the Colony as well as unfair interference with the Planting Community in spending its own money. But, however this may be, I greatly regret the unfortunate action of the present Government both on account of the Anti-Tea-Duty League and of the interests of the Tea industry in general."

Sir Roper Lethbridge added that in all his remarks at the previous interview he was dealing with what he understood was a somewhat prevalent

misconception in Ceylon and India—that the League was being somewhat of a partisan in politics. "Indeed one Calcutta paper," he said, "evidently with a remote acquaintance with English politics, actually inferred that the League is in favour of Tariff reform from the fact which was before it at the time, that the efforts of the League at the General Election returned 153 Liberal Members to Parliament. I am glad to see that the *Independent*, in its very courteous reply to these remarks of mine admits that 'it is perfectly true that the League is not a party organisation'; but that the old and mistaken idea still lingers is shown, I think, by your words that the methods of the League must have rankled in the minds of Liberal statesmen. I venture very respectfully to ask why Liberal statesmen, who obtained from the efforts of the League their majority? and why not also Conservative statesmen, who owed their great defeat of 1906 mainly to the efforts of the Anti-Tea-Duty League?"

Speaking in conclusion as to what has been said of the "disastrous" connection of the Planters' Association with the Anti-Tea-Duty League, Sir Roper Lethbridge said that he had had the pleasure of discussing both the past and the future with many of the most important leaders of the Tea industry of Ceylon and Southern India and he hoped to see many more on his return to Colombo in February after meeting the South India Planters at Bangalore. "As far as I have gone," he said, "I can say this positively, that I believe there is not a single member of the Tea industry who does not repudiate indignantly the idea that a connection that has already deducted 3*d.* from the burden of taxation on every pound of Ceylon tea sold in the United Kingdom can under any circumstances be described as 'disastrous.' I do not think that any of them hold the Anti-Tea-Duty League responsible for the unfortunate decision of the Liberal Government in revising the decision of the late Conservative Government about the Cess fund. On the contrary, I think that most, and perhaps all, would regard the determination of that connection as eminently disastrous to the 'interests of the Tea industry, which would then be looked upon by every Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether Liberal or Conservative, as a perfectly ideal hen-roost to rob in order to earn the money for Old-age Pensions."

The Ceylon Tea Duty.

The *Ceylon Observer* of the 18th December, 1908, remarks:—

The Indian agitation for the removal of this vexatious impost is of the steadily maintained order which cannot fail sooner or later to secure the object at which it aims. It is merely a question of time and in the meantime the Planters are striving to lessen the period of waiting. A new phase in the agitation is reported to-day. The Darjeeling and Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association recommend retaliatory measures. They are prepared to memorialise the Indian Government asking for the imposition of a tax on Ceylon tea imported into India similar in amount to the tax placed on Indian tea entering Ceylon This step is not likely to frighten Planters and Merchants in this Colony into immediate submission to the will of their Indian brethren; it may, however, be the thin end of the wedge of retaliation and there may be worse to follow—a tax on rice or impediments placed in the way of cooly recruiting and emigration here.

Europeans and Indians.

The support of the U. P. A. S. I. has been asked for in respect of an "open letter" which has been sent to the Secretary of State for India and several English newspapers by the Behar Planters' Association with the approval and support of various other Associations. The letter reads as follows:—

The object of this letter is to respectfully place before Your Lordship the views of the undersigned Associations on the present situation in India. Our occupation is primarily and essentially a commercial one and our prime interests are and must be the maintenance of good and friendly relations between Europeans and Indians. Unfortunately in consequence of the Indian Government having allowed in the past a small section of the Indian community to preach and write open sedition, and hatred of Western people,

especially Englishmen (and certain irresponsible Members of Parliament having been allowed to aid and abet this small section by shameless misrepresentations without any official protest being made) the seeds of discontent have been sown and the mischief has widely spread and the occurrence of cases of rioting, assault, bomb outrages, murders of Europeans and defiance of official orders, has clearly shown, not only the loss of respect which the Government has suffered, but the prestige of the European has also suffered as a natural consequence.

No doubt Your Lordship regards, and we also view, with satisfaction the very marked change for the better that has taken place in the last 3 months since the Government of India have taken measures to put down with a strong hand and punish some of those who have caused the trouble. A very large proportion of our Indian fellow-subjects have come forward and fully supported and approved of the action that has been taken.

We are not so much concerned with the political aspect, as the economic one, which is of vital importance to the welfare of the country and we would ask Your Lordship to carefully consider this in working out the future policy for the Government of the country. India must learn to walk before she can run.

We have followed with interest your public speeches on the unrest, as well as those of H. E. Lord Minto, our Viceroy, and the utterances of the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, the United Provinces and Eastern Bengal, and Assam, during their Monsoon tours, and we would draw your attention to the following remarks made by Sir John Hewett, Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces:—

> "There can be no industrial development unless peace and quiet reign amongst us. The difficulties of developing this country are being accentuated by the reputation that it has recently gained for insecurity. I have on former occasions insisted that both European and Indian capital are essential if the resources of the country are to be properly exploited. Indian capital I then described as shy. I think that I am justified in now describing it as even shyer than it was. I regret that to my own knowledge several enterprises in these Provinces that rely on the provision of capital from England the supply of which seemed assured less than 12 months ago, have had to be indefinitely postponed. This is the case in other Provinces as well."

These are ominous words, especially coming from one who was Minister of Commerce on the Viceroy's Council previous to his being appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces.

The undersigned Associations representing Merchants, Traders, Planters, who spend the best portion of their lives in India and who live on friendly and often cordial terms with the natives who they meet daily in their various business avocations and occupations, are of opinion:—

1. That the present system of education should be carefully considered. In England the son of the artisan or peasant may receive the highest education, but if he is unable to support himself by his literary attainments, he is not ashamed to turn to manual labour and follow his father's trade or occupation.

   In India the son of the artisan or peasant who receives a higher education, expects and looks to the Government that has educated him to provide for him throughout his life, and he will sooner starve on a miserable pittance than take up the honest trade or occupation of his father.

   Moreover, a great number of the so-called schools are notoriously mere nurseries of sedition. It seems to us unpardonable folly that these should be allowed to exist. The course we would urge is the compulsory registration of all private schools, for which some nominal license fee should be paid.

The Local Government should then be empowered to cancel the license of any school where proper control was not exercised over the pupils.

Again, under the present system of secular education, a boy does not receive that religious and moral training (in his own religion of course), which he should either as a Hindu, Buddhist or Mahomedan, and there are to-day throughout India a very large number of young men educated under the present system who neither fear God, honour their King nor respect their parents, and the insolent behaviour of so-called students towards their Masters is notorious.

The extension of Primary, Industrial and Technical education and the ultimate establishment of Industrial occupations throughout India will bring contentment to the country and materially help to solve the difficulty.

2. That the Newspapers Act (Incitement to Offences Act 1908) should be followed up by a General Press Act. It is not only necessary to restrain active sedition, but wilfully dishonest misrepresentations should also be promptly suppressed. No respectable and well conducted newspaper has anything to fear from the same.

3. We are fully in accord with the policy of justice and generosity which has always been associated with the British Government in India, but we would remind Your Lordship that in Oriental countries kindness is invariably interpreted as fear, and weakness is looked upon with contempt.

4. We are of opinion that a summary procedure in the cases of offences against the State and its judicial and executive officers must be provided. Without wishing to adopt extreme methods, we are of opinion that the present system with all its publicity and technicalities instead of being a deterrent in respect of these offences really lends a fictitious glamour to them, a glamour which would disappear were a simple and summary procedure shorn of legal technicalities provided and the chances of quibbles and delay eliminated.

5. The legitimate aspirations of educated Indians to a larger share in the Government of this country have our entire sympathy, provided they are found fit to share in the administration.

6. We who are essentially traders in this country with its welfare at heart, view with dismay the mistaken policy adopted by the introduction of advanced Western ideas, which are having the effect of keeping capital from being invested in its industries, and development, and retarding the commercial advancement of the country. We are of opinion that a firm system of Government worked impartially, but with a strong hand, will give the necessary confidence. At present little more is required.

In conclusion, we are fully in accord with the following remarks made by the Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhangah, in his speech to the Behar Landholders' Association at Bankipore, on the 14th of August, 1908. In appealing to the Moderates, he said:—

"That the idea of self-Government may be dropped for the present, especially as it is an idea not within the realm of practical politics at this stage nor likely to be during the present generation. Far better let us all unite on the more conservative platform on which we can take our stand and shoulder to shoulder bend all our energies on the factors of nation-building in its different aspects. Seeking after the Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial development of this country, is a pursuit which all can engage in without any distinction of race or Creed. Trust in God, loyalty to the Crown, and devotion to our country's best interests should be the watchword of us all."

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Wynaad Planters' Association.

Meeting held on the 2nd December, 1908, at Meppadi Club.

Present:—The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. ABBOTT, Messrs. H. ATZENWILER, B. M. BEHR, S. K. BOUSFIELD, W. F. CARSLAKE, C. F. EWART, D. MACKENZIE, W. MACKINLAY, D. H. MCLEOD, B. MALCOLM, S. H. POWELL (Jnr.), A. TROLLOPE, A. WEST and H. WADDINGTON (*Honorary Secretary*).

Visitors.—Messrs. J. W. Bisset, J. Elphinston, R. Fowke and W. Parry.

In the Chair.—Captain W. F. Carslake, R. N.

The Proceedings of last Meeting were confirmed.

1423. *New Members.*—Messrs. J. W. Bisset, J. Elphinston and W. Parry proposed by the Honorary Secretary and seconded by Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Abbott will be balloted for at next Meeting.

1424. *Rail Freights on Tea.*—READ letter from Honorary Secretary to the Indian Tea Association, to which no answer has yet been received.

READ letter from Messrs. Parry and Co.—*Resolved* that Messrs. Parry and Co. be cordially thanked for their effort in getting the Railway rates reduced and that their letter be published for information of all Members. (*See* Appendix).

1425. *Liquor Shops in Vicinity of Estates.*—No answer having been received to our request that license for shop between miles 12 and 13 on the Meppadi Sholadi Road shall not be renewed, the Honorary Secretary was instructed to again address the Collector of Malabar.

1426. *The Vayitri Magistrate.*—Further complaints being made as to the action of the Vayitri Magistrate, it was resolved to forward letters received to the District Magistrate.

1427. *Roads No.* 35.—*B. Sultan's Battery-Nilgiri Frontier.*—The Honorary Secretary was instructed to call attention of the President, District Board, to the unsafe condition of the bridges on this road and particularly to the bridge over the Noolpoya.

1428. *Roads No.* 4.—*Calicut-Mysore Frontier.*—The Padri-para Bridge at mile 55-54 has been closed for two months and the ford over the river is a very awkward one. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write to the Executive Engineer, D. P. W., and enquire if steps have been taken to rebuild and re-open the bridge for traffic.

1430. *Honorary Secretary.*—Mr. Waddington, in view of leaving Wynaad, resigned. A hearty vote of thanks was carried thanking him for his services as Honorary Secretary during the last two years. Mr. Abbott was elected to succeed him.

1431. *Papers on the Table.*—U. P. A. S. I. Circulars Nos. 51 to 33.
I. T. A. Circular No. 18.
Report 1906-07, Agric. Chemist, Mysore State.
Report Dept. Agric., Madras, 1906-07.
Do. do. do. 1907-08.
Agric. Ledgers No. 1, Salvadora Fat.
Do. do. No. 6, The Races of Jute.
Do. do. No. 7, Index, 1907.

A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the Proceedings.

(Signed) W. F. CARSLAKE,
Chairman.

(Signed) H. WADDINGTON,
Honorary Secretary.

APPENDIX.

Rail Freights on Tea—

Box No. 12,

MADRAS, *26th November*, 1908.

H. WADDINGTON, ESQ.,

Honorary Secretary,

Wynaad Planters' Association,

Vayitri.

DEAR SIR,

With further reference to your letter of 29th September last, we have the pleasure to inform you that as a result of our negotiations with the Railway authorities and the local Steamship Agents, we find that it will be possible to ship Teas from this port during the Monsoon months at a cost slightly over 1 pie per pound net above Calicut charges as follows:—

Freight to London per Clan Line and B. I. S. N. Co.:—30*s.* per ton of 50 cubic feet, *less* rebate of 10% = 27*s.* net. Saving of 3*s.* = Rs. 2-4-0 over Calicut freight.

Taking the average net weight of chest as 90 lbs. and 10 chests to the ton, the saving per lb. of Tea = ·48 pies.

The Railway have agreed to a through rate on Tea of 6 annas per pound per maund, including terminal charges, from Calicut to Madras Harbour in waggon loads of 12 tons, any small excess required to complete shipments being conveyed at same rate.

This through rate works out as follows:—

Railage on a waggon load of 12 tons: As. 6×27 mds. ×12 tons=Rs.121-8-0.

(The Railway calculate 27 maunds to a ton).

The actual number of full chests a truck will hold is 176.

Taking the average net weight of a chest as 90 lbs., 176 chests contain 15,840 lbs. railage on 1 lb. of tea	1·473	pies.
Add cart-hire at Calicut at As. 11 per 2,240 lbs.	·059	,,
	1·532	,,
Deduct rebate on freight at Rs. 2-4-0 per ton of 900 lbs. net (10 chests=50 cubic feet × 90)	·480	,,
	1·052	,,

Taking into consideration that the distance from Calicut to Madras is 414 miles, we think the rates we have been able to secure are reasonable, and if any Members of your Association desire to take advantage of despatching their Teas *via* Madras during the Monsoon months we shall be very pleased to represent their interests at this port and to hear from them individually with a view to making arrangements before the next South-west Monsoon sets in.

Our charges from Railway Station to f. o. b. Madras will be at the rate of 8½ annas per full chest, these are somewhat in excess of Calicut shipping charges, owing to the extra charges of this port for Harbour dues and cranage, but in the interests of the District we are not making any extra charge for the extra supervision involved.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) PARRY & CO.

Shevaroy Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Quarterly General Meeting of the S. P. A. held at the Victoria Rooms, Yercaud, on Monday, the 7th December, 1908.

Present:—Rev. Messrs. ROCHET, and DANIEL, Messrs. C. G. LECHLER, B. KIDD, C. RAHM, W. RAHM, CAMPBELL, C. K. SHORT, W. HIGHT, E. DICKINS, J. C. LARGE, T. MANUEL, W. I. LECHLER, R. A. GILBY and CHARLES DICKINS (*Chairman and Honorary Secretary*).

1. *Passing of Accounts.*—The accounts, showing a balance in hand of Rs.27-10-3, in favour of the Association up to the end of November, 1908, were passed.

2. READ letter from Mr. A. G. Nicholson enclosing Photograph of defaulting Maistry Chinanan, also Honorary Secretary's reply thereto, which was approved of.

3. READ letter from Mr. B. S. Kidd, with reference to Manjavadi Feeder road started, but not completed.

Resolved—"That the Honorary Secretary be requested to write to the Collector of the District for the completion of the Manjavadi and other Feeder roads." Proposed by Mr. B. S. Kidd, seconded by Mr. C. G. Lechler.—*Carried unanimously.*

4. READ and recorded letter dated 24th September, 1908, No. $\frac{\text{M. L., } 10\text{-}252}{42385}$ from the Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Honorary Secretary, S. P. A., *re:* Delay of Mails in Yercaud during the month of June, 1908.

5. READ and recorded Circular No. 44/08 of 16th October, *re:* the Ceylon Tea Duty.

6. Do. do. do. No. 43/08 of 16th October, *re:* The Theni Bridge.

7. Do. do. do. No. 46/08 of 17th October, *re:* Scientific Officer's Scheme in connection with the Mundakayam Rubber Planters' Association.

8. Do. do. do. No. 45/08 of 17th October, *re:* Imperial Preference.

9. Do. do. do. No. 48/08 of 31st October, *re:* Anti-Tea-Duty League.

10. Do. do. do. No. 49/08 of 2nd November, *re:* Liquor Shops.

11. Do. do. do. No. 52/08 of 21st November, *re:* Ceylon Tea Duty.

12. Do. do. do. No. 53/08 of 23rd November, *re:* Popularization of Coffee.

13. READ Circular No 54/08 of 2nd December, *re:* Europeans and Indians in India.

Resolved—"That this Association cordially agrees with the sentiments expressed in the 'open letter' of the Behar Planters' Association addressed to the Secretary of State."

14. This Association is given to understand that it is proposed to metal the Feeder road from the Lake to the Craigmor Estate, and deems this a necessary work and would hail its accomplishment with much satisfaction.

15. Proposed by Mr. J. C. Large and seconded by Mr. C. K. Short, "That Mr. Charles Dickins be appointed Honorary Secretary for the coming year."—*Carried unanimously.*

The following books and papers were placed on the table for circulation amongst the Members:—*Planters' Chronicle*; Detailed Report of the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association, year ending 1907; Vegetable Product Series No. 106 of the Agricultural Ledger, 8th Annual Report of the Agricultural Chemist, 1906-07 (Mysore); Cultivation of Ground Nuts, by Mr. H. C. Sampson; Notes on Fig Cultivation, by Rao Bahadur C. K. Subba Rao; Report of the Operations of the Department of Agriculture (Madras Presidency, 1906-07); and Circular of the Indian Tea Association and George White & Co.'s India, Ceylon and Java Tea Memoranda.

CHARLES DICKINS, *Honorary Secretary, S. P. A.*

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

Extract from Abstract of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the General Committee held on the 8th December, 1908.

Anti-Tea-Duty League.—A letter of 20th November, from the Secretary of the Anti-Tea-Duty League, London, was read. With it there was forwarded a copy of a letter addressed by him to the leading journals in the Tea Districts of India and Ceylon asking Planters and others interested in the industry to send in subscriptions to the League and the hope was expressed that supporters of the League in India would subscribe five rupees each either direct to the League in London or to any of the Local Associations. In his covering letter the Secretary stated that subscribers at Home were being asked to assist the League; and as regards subscriptions in India, he asked that the Committee would facilitate matters as much as possible here.

The General Committee have before expressed their opinion that it is of the greatest importance that the work of the Anti-Tea-Duty League should be continued, but they feel strongly that the present organisation of the League is inadequate to carry it on successfully. While that is so they agreed meantime to comply with the Secretary's request that they should receive subscriptions for the League, as a note to that effect had already been issued by him, and any contribution forwarded to them will be passed on to London.

Scientific Department.—Dr. Hope's report on the Heeleaka work for the period up to 23rd November was to be recorded. In it he mentioned that pruning, deep hoeing, etc., had not yet begun in the cultivated area, but that deep hoeing of the clearance and pruning of the hedges dividing the plots would be commenced shortly. As the last plucking had yielded little leaf, and there was little hope of more, leaf returns for the year would be made up on the figures obtained up to then. The report also stated that a Meeting of the Advisory Committee had been held on the 17th of November, when arrangements were agreed on as to the treatment which the three-year old tea should receive: it was decided, too, to abandon the present experiments and to utilise the plots formerly occupied by them as well as four plots previously used for cold weather experiments as plots whereon to make new cold weather cultivation experiments on the use of oil-cake, with the object of finding out the best time of year at which to apply it.

Dr. G. D. Hope.—Dr. Hope, who is in charge of the Heeleaka Experimental Station, being present in Calcutta, had been asked to attend the Meeting, and the Committee now had a discussion with him regarding the various matters connected with his work.

The first matter dealt with had reference to the analyses of soils and manures which have been conducted by the Department at the instance of and for the benefit of individuals. The number of samples tendered for analyses had so increased that much of the time of the Department was taken up with this kind of work. This time, he felt, could be much more profitably spent in scientific research. It was explained, however, that the Department had gathered much interesting information from the results of the analyses made at the Heeleaka Experimental Station and also in the Laboratory at Calcutta. Nevertheless, the value of work in time was not commensurate with any gain in information so acquired. If, therefore, Tea proprietors desiring to have their individual soils or manures analysed would have this done by any of the qualified Analytical Chemists in Calcutta and would send the results of the analyses to the Scientific Department with full particulars, the Officer in charge would be as well able to advise thereon as if he had himself conducted the analyses, and the Department would not be the loser as regards the information. Dr. Hope particularly wished to emphasise the importance to the Department of their continuing to receive these figures. He, moreover, wished it to be understood that any analyses of tea leaf itself might be conducted at the Experimental Station.

In the discussion which followed, it was the view of the Committee that it would be clearly to the general interest to give effect to Dr. Hope's request by asking members to discontinue sending to the Department for analysis samples of soils or manures on which they wished private advice. It was accordingly decided to circularise members on the matter, putting before them the points brought out by Dr. Hope.

This discussion suggested what the Committee felt was one of the most important departments of the Scientific Officers, namely, chemical research and experiment in connection with the process of manufacture of tea with a view to improving its quality or maintaining a higher standard of excellence. The Committee felt that not much information had been published recently as regards this, and Dr. Hope explained that the difficulty lay chiefly in getting facilities for the conduct of experiments in manufacture, the department having no factory of its own. It was recognised that in the past much very valuable work had been done in this direction under present conditions, and the hope was expressed that facilities would be accorded to the Scientific Officer to conduct further experiments on this important work. Dr. Hope then went on to say that it would be of great advantage to the Department if they could, from time to time, be informed of the results of experiments made by individual Planters either as regards manufacture, cultivation or in any other matter connected with the growth and manufacture of tea. There would be no necessity to divulge the name of the garden contributing the information and if the results were forwarded to the Department, the latter might, probably, be able to offer advice thereon. With the approval of the Committee he proposed to write in such a letter as might be circularized to members making this suggestion; and he would also submit a draft schedule, which could be used for compiling periodical returns. The Committee agreed that the proposal might be usefully carried out and asked Dr. Hope to write accordingly.

The next point dealt with was the question of the Annual Report on the Heeleaka Experiments for 1908, which Dr. Hope said he should like to have issued as soon as possible after the end of the year; and it was agreed that this would be desirable. Meantime the leaf returns for the present year might, as mentioned in the periodical report quoted above, be made up at once and he accordingly proposed to issue these, with the corresponding figures of previous years for comparison, at an early date.

Dr. Hope also said that he would like the Department to acquire a few more plots of tea for further experiments, particularly for cultivation work with fairly young tea; as, however, he had not yet fully gone into the question of this extension he would write in on the subject after he had made his plans.

ASSAM BRANCH.

Extracts from the Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Assam Branch Indian Tea Association, held at Moriani, on the 7th November, 1908.

The Chairman, MR. W. SKINNER, said:—

GENTLEMEN,—If you have read the address I circulated before, you will see I have endeavoured to show from Colonial Enactments how much more useful they are to the industries they are made to benefit than the Acts under which our labour is controlled. To avoid being prolix, I have omitted many other useful clauses, such as those dealing with (1) Protection of the wife from husband's ill-treatment; (2) Protection of the wife's property when deserted by her husband; (3) Punishment for enticing away an immigrant's wife; (4) Right of action to recover gifts in consideration of marriage or betrothal, etc., all subjects which most of us have constantly to deal with, outside the law, and as showing how thoroughly the Colonial authorities have studied the Labour question in relation to their industries so as to meet all contingencies likely to arise.

I have drawn special attention to these Colonial Enactments as they seem to be unknown to our Indian Administrators while in many respect they deserve to be studied; but I am afraid it is like the voice of one crying in the wilderness so far as the knowledge of them is likely to ameliorate our present labour difficulties or the action of Government in amending the Act.

Government has told us plainly that we have to put our house in order as the removal of the Act will shortly be considered, and to this end it has commenced to delete certain clauses which practically render the remainder of it of little value.

EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

The Meeting fully approved of the action taken by the Chairman, and was unanimous as to the support which would be forthcoming if subscriptions could be reduced . . .

CEYLON IMPORT DUTY.

The Chairman read a letter received from the Duars Planters' Association suggesting a joint memorial by all Tea Associations praying for the imposition of a similar duty on teas coming into India as that imposed by Ceylon on Indian teas, and asking for our views.

After some discussion, the Meeting was inclined to agree with the views expressed by the Hon'ble G. N. Abbott, Chairman of the South Indian Planters' Association, and Member of Council, that if Ceylon was pressed to concede the duty it might use it as a lever to secure greater facilities to recruit labour in South India which would be directly against the interests of South Indian Planters; and that it would be more advisable to co-operate with our South Indian friends and press Government to take strict measures to see that no Ceylon tea was imported into India, which is practically unsound, and that a fair value is declared on all teas imported for customs purposes, especially as it was thought that any request for a reciprocal duty would be met by a direct refusal by India. . . .

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER.

DR. HOPE, rising, said:—

GENTLEMEN,—My experience of tea having been so short a one I intend to confine my remarks to a statement of facts.

Though this plucking season is not yet at an end the general results of manuring experiments which have been carried on at Heeleaka during this year can be estimated and it may be of interest to you to hear a few of them.

Firstly as regards oilcake, during the past three years experiments have been carried on with oilcake, castor meal, and cattle manure, with the object of comparing these manures and arriving at satisfactory method of application. It has been found that oilcake and castor meal are superior to cattle manure and that these two if applied in small quantities, annually gave better returns than if applied in three times the quantity once in three years.

It was decided at the beginning of this year to leave these plots unmanured during this season with the object of studying the residual effect which these manures may have had upon the leaf bearing capacity of the plots. The results are interesting. The residual effect of oilcake appears to be considerable while that of cattle manure and castor meal is small and all the plots which were manured with them and which have been left unmanured this year show a decrease up to date when compared with last year's returns.

Experiments have this year been made with sterilized animal meal, and a comparison has been made of the use of 3, 5 and 7 maunds per acre of this with 6, 10 and 15 maunds per acre respectively of oilcake. On plots which last year were yielding about 6 maunds per acre of pucca tea the increase due to these two manures is on the average about half a maund per acre the advantage being slightly on the side of oilcake. On poorer tea yielding from 35 to 4 maunds per acre last year, the increase due to 3 maunds of sterilized animal meal and 6 maunds of oilcake per acre is about one maund per acre.

The results, however, of one year's experiments with sterilized animal meal do not yield sufficient data upon which to form a final decision as to the relative merits of this manure and oilcake.

This year the principle of applying manures frequently and in small quantities throughout one season has been studied. Comparative experiments have been made with three manures—oilcake, sterilized animal meal and nitrate of potash and in every case it has been found that divided applications give a better return than the same amount of manure applied all at once at the beginning of the season. The extent to which this principle can be carried into actual practical application is of course subject to conditions which probably differ on every garden.

These, gentlemen, are a few of the chief results of this year's manurial experiments as far as they can be gauged up to date. A full discussion of them will of course appear in an Annual Report of the Heeleaka experimental Station. I should like finally to impress upon you the importance of making experiments where possible on your own garden. To conduct at least one such experiment annually under conditions which insure a fair degree of accuracy ought not to be a matter of great difficulty and the results to individual Planters will most assuredly be of the highest value. The Experiments carried on at Heeleaka have a general value and indicate the comparative values of different kinds of manures, etc., etc., but the absolute value of a particular manure or of any particular method of pruning, cultivation, etc., can only be arrived at by experiments carried out on that garden the value for which of any particular manure or method one desires to determine.

If any one thinks of making an experiment for himself I hope that he will communicate with the Scientific department, whence all possible help will be given and to whom all results of practical experiments are of the utmost importance. I propose to issue a schedule giving directions for such experiments and upon which the returns from experiments may be recorded. I suggest that one copy be kept by the experimenter and that another be sent to the Scientific department. . . .

Form and Colour in Rubber.

In the course of a "Ramble round Raw Rubber," the Editor of *Tropical Life*, referring to the International Rubber Exhibition at Olympia, remarks:—

"The great feature of the Ceylon Court is the puzzle that it gave one to decide which colour or form of rubber is the best to send to the market. Ceylon's idea of solving the difficulty is evidently to send all and every shape and colour, though only one quality, *viz.*, the very best. Being fine cultivated rubber the depth of colour is limited to dark amber, as in the block; from this it lightens down to a perfectly colourless crêpe. Colourless is a more correct description rather then white. The pale crêpe is quite yellow besides it. Those who send it over seem to have nothing but good to say of the very pale thin crêpe that is included in the exhibits and sent over freely, but it certainly seems to me that as a rubber it must have much of the goodness knocked out of it; and I would still recommend the Planter to send over rubber blocked, with more moisture in it. I was shown, however, some beautifully clear block rubber with which no one could find fault, and was told that these were the same pale crêpe, but blocked. The extreme thinness is favoured as it enables the rubber to be dried so much more quickly. The Lanadron block (in the Malay Court) strikes one as possessing distinct advantages in cleanliness, facility of handling, and saving in freight over thin or thick crêpe. Its strength and nerve must be greater, though this is denied. The only objection, *viz.*, possible adulteration, is impossible in fine rubber, as the block is all but transparent; furthermore, a cut into it would soon solve any doubt on that point. These blocks run about 9 by 11 ins., and so far have carried all before them. The Ceylon Rosehaugh Company's block, made from pale crêpe, which won a gold medal at the St. Louis Exhibition, ran it very close however its clear amber colour being the envy of all rubber enthusiasts."

TEA.

In Nyasaland.

In the West Shiré District of Nyasaland there are 3 acres, and in the Mlanje District 513 acres, under tea. At the latter centre 53 acres are in bearing, and yielded a crop of ¾ tons (5,600 lbs.) last year. During 1908, it was hoped that about 22,000 lbs. would be picked.

Lantana Bug in Ceylon.

Mr. Henry A. Beachcroft, Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, has written as follows to the Ceylon Press :—

"Mr. Kelway Bamber informs me that, in a District lately visited by him, tea is being seriously attacked by Lantana bug, which would seem to have recently developed a taste for our staple product.

"Mr. Bamber advises that repressive measures should be immediately taken by cutting down all tea trees and all neighbouring Lantana affected by the bug and carefully burning all cuttings.

"The matter will be brought before the Committee meeting of the Planters' Association to be held on January 8th next, but meantime it is important to ascertain whether other Districts are affected, and Planters who have noticed any tea in their Districts suffering from a similar cause will, it is hoped, at once give information to the Secretary of the Planters' Association."

Referring to the above, another Planter writes :—

"I believe the appearance of this bug on our coffee trees weakened by attacks of leaf disease was noted after a very dry year. In one season it did more harm to coffee than two seasons of leaf disease. Would not planting of wild sun-flower, in the place of the Lantana rooted out, prevent the growing again of Lantana? Does wild sun-flower (I do not know its botanical name) cause much harm to tea adjoining it?"

The Government Mycologist on "Lantana Bug on Tea."

This has elicited from the Government Mycologist, Mr. T. Petch, the following letter, dated 22nd December, 1908 :—

Since the publication of Mr. Beachcroft's letter *re* Lantana bug on tea, I have obtained specimens from one of the worst affected estates. Though the appearance is the same as that of the blight on Lantana, a closer examination shows that the insect in this case is not "Lantana bug" (*Orthezia insignis*), but "Green bug." (*Lecanium viride*). As "Green bug" was one of the chief insect pests of coffee, this makes the case rather more serious, though it limits the work required to suppress the pest, because we have not to deal with the Lantana of the whole country.

It is also reported that the same pest is attacking roses, and killing "Madras thorn." As all these black fungi look the same, this statement cannot be accepted unless supported by specimens. These fungi live on the secretions of scale insects, and the insects, as a rule, are different on different species of plants. It is more probable that favourable weather conditions have led to the development of large numbers of the various scale insects which attack different plants in the District in question.

As far as can be ascertained, "Green bug" has taken about two years to spread to its present extent in the affected District. This again is a more serious feature, for it shows that the present attack cannot be attributed altogether to abnormal weather conditions during the current year, but is rather the result of a steady advance of the pest.

In addition to pruning, and burning the prunings, as recommended by Mr. Bamber, the bushes ought to be sprayed, after pruning, with kerosene emulsion, which is made as follows :—

"Kerosene	...	...	...	...	2 gallons
Water	...	...	...	...	1 gallon
Soap	...	...	...	...	½ pound

"Boil the soap in water until all is dissolved; then, while boiling hot, turn it into the kerosene, and churn the mixture constantly and forcibly with a syringe or force pump for five minutes, when it will be of a smooth, creamy nature. If the emulsion is perfect, it will adhere to the surface of glass without oiliness. As it cools, it thickens into a jelly-like mass. This gives the stock emulsion, which must be diluted with nine times its measure of warm water before using on vegetation. The above quantity of three gallons of emulsion will make thirty gallons of wash."

The wash should be applied by means of a sprayer fitted with a Vermore or Cyclone nozzle; the simple jet used in spraying cacao pods is useless in this case. There is a sprayer on the market which automatically emulsifies the kerosene and thus renders the addition of soap unnecessary, but it is not likely to be available locally.

It is imperative that this pest should be taken in hand at once, before it has spread to other Districts. Though it may not kill out the tea bush, it effectually stops flushing. For the benefit of those who are not acquainted with "Green bug," it may be stated that its presence is indicated by the appearance of a black mould which completely covers all the green parts of the bush. The green, oval insects are usually found on the under surface of the leaves and along the shoots.

IN CHINA.

The following is extracted from the report on the Foreign Trade of China for the year 1907 by the Acting Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Legation at Peking:—

"The climatic conditions which proved so favourable to the silk industry of China in 1907 was equally favourable to the tea cultivator and the amount of leaf available for export was much greater than in 1906. The first teas realised higher prices, owing to the strong competition of Russian buyers, and even the common teas commanded better prices than in 1906. Before the opening of the season reports from Home led to the belief that there would be a considerable demand for good quality tea, but that demand, if it ever existed, was quickly satisfied, and subsequent requirements in the United Kingdom at least, were common teas and siftings not for sale as China tea, but to blend with and bring down the price of Indian and Ceylon teas.

"The total shipment of tea of all kinds from China to foreign countries in 1907 amounted to 214,673,333 lbs. of the value of £ 5,157,102 against 187,217,067 lbs. of the value of £ 4,382,793 in 1906, or an increase of 27,466,266 lbs. The tea ports of Hankow, Kiukiang and Foochow all shared in the increase, Canton alone falling off. Canton's total export of scented capers to London in 1907, which was 482,328 lbs., barely covered cost, and His Majesty's Consul-General at Canton states that the Australian and South American demand is now almost satisfied by Chinese shippers and importers who control the bulk of the trade. The total export was made up of 94,436,400 lbs. of black and 35,306,933 lbs. of green leaf, 80,563,467 lbs. of brick and 1,430,533 lbs. of tablet and 2,946,000 lbs. of dust. Black and green leaf increased by 14,315,467 and 7,716,933 lbs., respectively, the increase in brick and tablet were 2,333,200 and 189,599 lbs. and the export of dust rose from 84,933 to 2,946,000 lbs., nearly the whole of which (2,810,933 lbs.) went direct to the United Kingdom, which took none in 1906. According to the Chinese customs returns the United Kingdom took 11,636,000 lbs. of black and green leaf in 1906, but the actual amount that passed into consumption during that year was only 5,671,121 lbs., or about 21 per cent. of the whole tea consumption of the British Kingdom. The consignment to the United Kingdom in 1907 amounted to 20,982,933 lbs. (black, 15,731,734 lbs.; green, 2,428,533 lbs.; brick, 11,733 lbs.; and dust, 2,810,933 lbs.); and, judging from the British consumption of China tea during the last few years, it may be assumed that the great bulk of it was re-exported. One thing, however, is certain; if China tea is ever to regain its position in the United Kingdom it will not be by the introduction of cheap common qualities and dust.

"Russia is, of course, the chief consumer; of the total export weight of 214,683,333 lbs., she is credited with 131,828,134 lbs., followed by the United States with 26,898,667 lbs., the United Kingdom with 20,982,933 lbs. (much of it for distribution), Hong-Kong with 13,218,800 lbs. (all for distribution, but destinations untraceable), the Continent of Europe (Russia excepted) with 12,201,201 lbs., and by other countries and their dependencies with much smaller quantities.

"I have already referred to the import of tea dust from India, Ceylon and Java for belonging with China dust in the manufacture of brick and tablet tea for the Russian-Asiatic market, and it looks as if China had now begun to export dust for blending with Indian and Ceylon teas in Europe."

In the course of his report on the Trade of Foochow for the year 1907, Mr. Consul Playfair observes:—

"The past season has been in many ways a most disappointing one for foreign merchants. Reports from the Home markets early in the season led many importers to expect an improved demand for China teas on their merits. Consequently larger shipments of the better qualities resulted. The 'improved demand' was soon surfeited, and numbers of shops of excellent tea could find no buyers at any price. Without going into details, however, the increased consumption of China tea in the United Kingdom is caused almost solely by the call on the part of the blenders, who marked the low-priced canisters throughout the country, for siftings and common tea to bring down the price of Ceylon and Indian Teas in their blends. This has led to the shipment of vast quantities of poor quality siftings and very inferior quality of Foochow-packed teas, which can in no way redound to the reputation of China tea, and which it was hoped, by all who wish to see our trade improve, would never again leave our port to bring the name of China tea into bad repute. It is fairly safe to predict that an increased export, attained merely by the momentary demand for such rubbish, cannot be maintained."

Rubber in Nyasaland.

According to the European Agricultural Returns of the Nyasaland Protectorate for the twelve months ending March 31st last, several different varieties of Rubber are being planted up; there being about 2,244 acres under Ceará, 50 Castilloa, 124 Pará, and an acre under Funtumia, besides two large areas under Landolphia.

Rubber should bear Estate Marks.

Mr. Matthew, Chairman and Managing Director of the Victoria Rubber Co., Ltd., Leith, advises that every Estate should mark its rubber with its stamp. This can easily be done by the crêping machine. The reason is that there are in England certain small firms who are offering to manufacturers and others lots of "plantation crêpe rubber," very little of which has ever come from any plantation. A small percentage of it is plantation rubber, and this is blended and mixed with African and other low grade rubbers, washed and crêped, and then offered as the genuine article from the East, at a handsome profit to the blenders. Mr. Matthew's firm has had repeated offerings of this sort, and he thinks it would be of great service to the plantation industry if all rubber were marked with the Estate mark.

***

The death of Mr. William Gow, head of the old firm of Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton (now a Joint-Stock Company), of London, occurred last month. Many years ago, Mr. Stanton was for a short time, a planter and estate owner in Northern India, and he then took up business in London, and rendered very valuable service to the Planting industries of India and Ceylon. The news of his death evoked widespread sympathy among the Planting communities of these countries. He was the last of the original partners of the firm named; but the present Company may be relied upon to maintain for many years the high reputation that those gentlemen won for their periodical market-reports as models of accuracy and reliability.

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